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W e e k l y

A-League Round 16 Friday 20th Jan - Sunday 22nd Jan 2012

This Week's Line Up



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# SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	17	11	4	2	27	11	16	37
2 Brisbane Roar	17	8	4	5	33	20	13	28
3 Melbourne Heart	17	7	4	6	26	22	4	25
4 Wellington Phoenix	17	7	3	7	23	20	3	24
5 Perth Glory	17	6	4	7	19	24	-5	22
6 Sydney FC	17	5	5	7	20	26	-6	20
7 Melbourne Victory	16	4	7	5	20	23	-3	19
8 Adelaide United	16	4	7	5	17	26	-9	19
9 Newcastle Jets	16	5	3	8	20	28	-8	18
10 Gold Coast United	16	3	5	8	18	23	-5	14

THIS WEEK	Week 16 Fri 20 Jan 2012 Sat 21 Jan 2012 Sat 21 Jan 2012 Sun 22 Jan 2012 Sun 22 Jan 2012	Newcastle Jets v Wellington Phoenix Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar Sydney FC v Gold Coast United Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory	Ausgrid Stadium Bluetongue Stadium AAMI Park Sydney Football Stadium nib Stadium	8:00pm 5:30pm 7:45pm 5:00pm 4:30pm	8:00pm 5:30pm 7:45pm 5:00pm 7:30pm
NEXT WEEK	Week 17 Wed 25 Jan 2012 Thur 26 Jan 2012 Fri 27 Jan 2012 Sat 28 Jan 2012 Sun 29 Jan 2012 Sun 29 Jan 2012 Wed 1 Feb 2012	Fixture Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC Gold Coast United v Central Coast Mariners Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Heart Adelaide United v Perth Glory Melbourne Victory v Gold Coast United	Venue Carrington Park, Bathurst AAMI Park Skilled Park Suncorp Stadium Westpac Stadium Hindmarsh Stadium Aurora Stadium, Launceston	Local 7:30pm 4:00pm 7:00pm 6:45pm 4:30pm 4:30pm 7:30pm	AEDT 7:30pm 4:00pm 8:00pm 7:45pm 2:30pm 5:00pm 7:30pm

## ROUND 16 RESULTS

Melbourne Heart 0  
Central Coast Mariners 1  
(Kwasnik 89')

Sydney FC 1  
(Mark Bridge 44)  
Perth Glory 1  
(Adam Hughes 88)

Melbourne Victory 1 (Thompson 6)  
Adelaide United 1  
(van Dijk 53)

Brisbane Roar 2 (Mohamed Adnan 90+3', Besart Berisha 90+4')  
Sydney FC 1  
(Mark Bridge 39')

Central Coast Mariners 1  
(Zwaanswijk 60')  
Newcastle Jets 1 (Haliti 17')

Gold Coast United 0  
Wellington Phoenix 1 (Brown 88')

Melbourne Heart 1  
(Sarkies 66)  
Perth Glory 2  
(Smeltz 16, McGarry 68)

## TOP GOAL SCORERS

10 - Besart Berisha (Roar)  
7- Matt Simon (Mariners)  
Ryan Griffiths (Jets),  
Archie Thompson (Victory),  
6- Carlos Hernandez (Victory),  
Jeremy Brockie (Jets),  
Mate Dugandzic (Heart),  
Mitch Nichols (Roar),  
Shane Smeltz (Glory),  
5 - Patrick Zwaanswijk (Mariners)



Besart Berisha makes it to double figures after a dry spell which lasted eight games.

## A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 16

Compiled by Steven Talevski



**GK: Mathew Ryan** – The goalkeeper had an outstanding game against Melbourne Heart in a man of the match performance. Ryan also had a solid game against Newcastle where he only conceded an unstoppable counter attack goal by Labinot Haliti.

**RB: Manny Muscat** – Kept the Phoenix in the game with a clearance off the goal line after a Mark Paston slip up. Muscat played well in a solid back four for Wellington in their first win away from home this season.

**CB: Patrick Zwaanswijk** – The central defender scored a fantastic header to secure a point in the F3 derby. Zwaanswijk also had solid defensive efforts in both the win against the Melbourne Heart and the draw in the F3 derby.

**CB: Mohamed Adnan** – The Bahraini international set Suncorp Stadium alight with a magnificent free kick in extra time to kick off Brisbane's unlikely victory. Adnan was once again solid in defence alongside Matt Smith and keeps fellow Roar centre back Matt Jurman on the bench.

**LB: Fabio** – The Brazilian picked up the Muscat-Kosmina Medal in a solid defensive performance and caused troubles for the Adelaide defence down the left side with some great counter attacking runs.

**RM: Zenon Caravella** – The nephew of former Socceroo manager Frank Farina had a great game

against the Victory which was outlined by his work rate on and off the ball.

**CM: Dario Vidosic** – After a quite first half the Adelaide number 10 opened the game in the second half by troubling the Victory defence with his passing and dribbling skills along with his set piece taking which ultimately lead to the equaliser at AAMI Park.

**CM: Michael McGlinchey** – The New Zealand international had two great performances over the week which was capped off with a late assist to Adam Kwasnik to hand the Mariners the shock three points against a spirited Melbourne Heart side.

**LM: Harry Kewell** – Put in a man of the match performance which saw him wiggle his way through the Adelaide defence to set up Archie Thompson's opener and almost found himself on the score sheet when once again he broke through the Adelaide defence only to be denied of a winner from the crossbar.

**ST: Labinot Haliti** – The Kosovo born striker opened the scoring in the F3 derby finishing off some great lead up play by Ruben Zadkovich and Jeremy Brockie with a fantastic volley.

**ST: Mark Bridge** – The Sydney FC striker put in two hard working performances which saw him grab a goal in both games against Brisbane Roar and Perth Glory.

## Star Man

Patrick Zwaanswijk  
Mariners



The Dutchman may have turned 37 earlier this week, but that has not slowed him down as he scored a great header in the F3 derby to clinch a point for the Mariners. A few days later, he along with Mathew Ryan and Alex Wilkinson put in great performances to keep Melbourne Heart goalless to allow substitute Adam Kwasnik to come on and snatch a winner. This is Patrick Zwaanswijk's sixth appearance in Goal! Weekly's team of the week this season and third in a row.

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## Taylor Regan re-signs

The Hunter Ports Newcastle Jets have upgraded and extended the contract of defender Taylor Regan. The 23-year old, who was already contracted for next season, has signed an extended contract until the completion of the 2013/14 season.

The Dudley junior joined the Jets Youth team in 2008 and made his A-League debut in Round 10 of the 2010/11 season. Regan was the Youth team captain and according to his then coach Craig Deans, showed a lot of potential, strong leadership qualities, a good work ethic and an astute understanding of the game.

"Taylor has been exceptional so far this season and it is pleasing we have been able to extend his contract," assistant coach Craig Deans said.

"He is a young, local player that has come through our youth system and I am sure there were times that he thought he might not have made it but he has shown determination and a willingness to work hard and now he reaps the rewards."

Regan is enjoying his football and the opportunities afforded to him this season.

"It is great to have re-signed with the Jets," Regan said.

"I have been able to get more game

time this season and I am enjoying playing under Gary van Egmond.

"I have grown up in Newcastle, I love Newcastle and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Coach Gary van Egmond was eager to keep Regan in Newcastle.

"I love what Taylor brings to the team and his communication in particular is outstanding," the coach said.

"Taylor also embodies everything Newcastle. He loves the Club and the town. He enjoys the beach lifestyle. He has his family and friends close by. He has always been a Jets and Knights supporter."



## Mustafa Amini December's Hyundai A-League Starlet

Football Federation Australia and NAB, together with the Central Coast Mariners, are proud to announce the third nominee for the 2011/12 NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

Mustafa Amini from Central Coast Mariners was voted as the most outstanding U21 player for the month of December following standout performances in five matches.

Amini netted twice in December – one in the Yellow and Navy's 4-0 triumph in Adelaide, and the other in his teams' 2-1 win over Brisbane Roar at Suncorp Stadium on December 17.

Determined by a panel of football experts the NAB Young Footballer of the Year – December nominee, Amini was today elated to be recognised as one of the Hyundai A-League's elite young performers. "It's fantastic for the club and for me as well also to be recognised as one of the Young Players of the Month," Amini said. "It's good for the club having two (nominees) in a row."



Central Coast Mariners Head Coach Graham Arnold with Mustafa Amini . Photo: Courtesy Mariners

Amini is the third nominated player to be announced for the NAB Young Footballer of the Year award following James Brown's October nomination, and teammate Bernie Ibini's November nomination. The crafty, diminutive midfield maestro will be joined by a further three players in future

months to qualify to be named the NAB Young Footballer of the Year at the Hyundai A-League Awards in 2012.

The overall winner will receive a \$10,000 personal investment portfolio, a NAB Private Client Manager to assist with a range of banking and financial services,

and the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

Central Coast Mariners Head Coach, Graham Arnold, said the recognition was no less than Amini deserved for his contribution to his side's stellar December form.

And, Arnold added that it is fantastic that Amini's performances would ultimately aid the development of future football stars via the \$3,000 equipment pack NAB will provide to Amini's chosen junior football institution, Westfield Sports High.

"It's where they learn all their football and enjoy all their football," Arnold said. "When they're youngsters they have coaches who are volunteers and put a lot of work in with the kids; it's a just reward for them."

With his nomination in the NAB Young Footballer of the Year competition secured, Amini will look to enjoy his final five months as a Mariners player before he links with BVB Borussia Dortmund of the German Bundesliga.

## Beekmans returns home on personal leave

DUTCH midfielder Paul Beekmans has been granted a period of personal leave to return to Holland after receiving news of a family illness in recent days.

The 30-year-old flies to his homeland today and is expected to be away for a fortnight, ruling him out of at least two of Gold Coast's upcoming fixtures.

"Unfortunately, some family circumstances mean I have to go back home to Holland to spend some time with my family members," Beekmans said.

"Hopefully, everything will be okay and I plan to come back to Australia as soon as possible," he added.

United CEO Clive Mensink said the club had no hesitation in granting

the likeable Dutchman personal leave, saying family must always come first.

"Some things are much more important than football and obviously family is one of them," Mensink said.

"We were sad to hear Paul's news and the anxiety that can cause when you're on the other side of the world just adds to what is a stressful situation for him.

"Our priority is to ensure that he is well supported by the club in a difficult time for him personally. We wish him all the very best and hope everything works out well so we can see him back at the club in a couple of weeks."



Paul Beekmans tangles with Jason Hoffman in a recent match. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

## FFA STATEMENT ON JASON CULINA SITUATION

In relation to recent media reports on the situation between the Newcastle Jets and their marquee player Jason Culina, FFA has issued this statement in response:

"The Newcastle Jets knew it had the obligation to take out insurance for Jason Culina, as evidenced by the fact they tried to do so," said FFA Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications, Kyle Patterson.

"The Jets' decision to proceed to contract Jason without insurance, knowing he was injured at the time, was their decision. These circumstances don't relieve them of their obligations to him under the playing contract they signed at that time.

"It seems the club is now trying to pass this responsibility back to FFA. The idea that FFA, the administrator of the competition, should effectively take the risk for the salary payments of a marquee player that any club chooses to sign is untenable."

FFA notes that the Newcastle Jets have been meeting their obligations under Jason's contract and that Jason is working hard on his rehabilitation in order to return to action in the Hyundai A-League.

FFA again wishes to clarify the facts around insurance for marquee players in the Hyundai A-League.

Any club that decides to contract a marquee player does so knowing they are responsible for all costs, including insurance, and any liabilities arising from that engagement.

The cost of marquee players, as with the benefits, rest with the individual

club, not the FFA or the Hyundai A-League or other clubs, some of whom have made the decision not to sign marquee players.



Jason Culina

## ALEX SMITH STAYS ON WITH PHOENIX

Alex Smith will be with the Wellington Phoenix for the rest of the Hyundai A-League season. Smith confirmed today that he had agreed a new deal with the club after joining one game into the season as an injury replacement, and also signified he would like to still be a Phoenix player next season. "The new deal takes me through to the end of the season and we have had preliminary discussions, which are promising, for me to be here next year," Smith said. "I would love to stay on because I'm really enjoying my football here," Smith said.

"Ricki (Herbert) has been good in giving me a chance and I am trying to repay him. "It has also been easy to settle in because the players, who are a really close group, made me welcome from day one."

Smith arrived at the Phoenix after having his contract with Gold Coast United abruptly cancelled, which made the 1-0 win over the Queensland side on Sunday all the sweeter.

Smith also said he owed a debt of gratitude to former Phoenix keeper Glen Moss, who is now playing for Gold Coast.

"All the players were gutted for me when I was told I was no longer needed at United," Smith said. "Glen kindly contacted Ricki and suggested I was worth looking at so I didn't want to let him down either."

Smith began his career with a few

unsuccessful trials in England before spending a season with FC Dallas in the MLS.

He then quit football to spend two years travelling the world and only took it up again with Sydney Olympic "for fun".

The fun soon took on a serious side as he had a successful season with Olympic and that led to him signing for Gold Coast.

Smith describes his pathway to Wellington as "an interesting" journey but he would now like to settle down for a while.



Alex Smith in action for Phoenix.

Photo: PETER MCDONALD

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Sydney FC



1

Perth Glory



1

Match Details

Sydney FC 1 (Mark Bridge 44) drew Perth Glory 1 (Adam Hughes 88) Campbelltown Stadium Crowd: 5,505 Referee: Matt Gillett

Sydney FC: 1. Liam Reddy, 2. Sebastian Ryall, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 7. Brett Emerton (24. Mitchell Mallia '77), 8. Karol Kisel (9. Bruno Cazarine '88), 10 Nick Carle, 15. Terry McFlynn (c), 17. Terry Antonis (22. Nathan Sherlock '87), 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Scott Jamieson, 23. Rhyan Grant.

Sub not used: 20. Ivan Necevski, Yellow cards: Terry McFlynn 61, Scott Jamieson 68, Mark Bridge 92) Red cards: Nil

Perth Glory: 1. Danny Vukovic, 3. Bas van den Brink (8. Adam Hughes '16), 5. Steve Pantelidis, 7. Jacob Burns, 9. Shane Smeltz, 10. Liam Miller, 14. Steven McGarry, 17. Todd Howarth, 19. Josh Risdon, 21. Mile Sterjovski (22. Adam Taggart '78), 27. Andrezinho (16. Evan Berger '80).

Sub not used: 30. Lewis Italiano (gk). Yellow cards: Nil Red cards: Nil

# SFC shattered at the death again

By David Mason

Sydney FC suffered a second dose of last minute heartache in a week with Perth Glory scoring a late equaliser to draw 1-1 at Campbelltown Stadium this afternoon.

For the second match in succession Sydney FC took the lead through Mark Bridge in the first half only to concede late.

Sydney FC Coach Vitezslav Lavicka stayed true to the side that played brilliantly against Brisbane Roar before the last minute mayhem, making just one forced change with Sebastian Ryall coming into the side for the suspended Pascal Bosschaart. There were however two changes on the bench with a first appearance on the team sheet for defender Nathan Sherlock and a return for speedster Mitchell Mallia, who scored in his comeback from injury on Sunday with the Sydney FC Youth Team.

The match was played in stifling afternoon heat at Campbelltown, which dictated a cautious pace early on. So hot was the weather that referee Matt Gillett agreed to have a drink break midway through each half.

Perth suffered an early blow when central defender Bas Van Den Brink was forced off the field after he clashed heavily with Sydney FC defender Michael Beauchamp at a Sky Blues corner.

Sydney FC managed to have the majority of possession in the first half without engineering a large number of chances although a delightful Karol Kisel cross was only inches away from Brett Emerton at the far post in the 29th minute.

Kisel had a great opportunity himself in the 33rd minute when a Scott Jamieson corner was half-cleared by the Perth defence and Kisel's shot from the edge of the penalty area flashed wide of the left hand post.



Match Stats		
3	Saves	2
2	Attempts on target	4
5	Attempts off target	5
50%	Possession	50%
7	Corners	5
1	Offsides	1
16	Fouls committed	13

Adam Hughes pops up right at the end of the match to head home and salvage a pint for the visitors. Photo: GEOFF JONES

Liam Reddy had very little to do in the Sydney FC goal although he did have to react quickly to get down to the near post following a cheeky free kick attempt from Perth's Liam Miller in the 36th minute.

The pressure finally took its toll in the 44th minute when Mark Bridge scored his second goal in two matches and his second against Perth Glory this season with a well placed volley after Nick Carle bamboozled the Perth defence and crossed to the far post.

Sydney FC almost made it 2-0

in the shadows of half time when Terry Antonis made a great run to get behind the Perth defence only for Danny Vukovic to make a great save down low.

Sydney FC continued to dominate possession after the break and Carle had a great opportunity to find the back of the net in the 52nd minute when a miscued Perth clearance ballooned into his path just 10m from goal but his shot screwed wide.

Perth did manage to work their way back into the game midway through the second half and had

two chances in the 61st and 62nd minute when Perth had a chance to shoot from the edge of the penalty area but Scott Jamieson and Rhyan Grant did well to block both opportunities.

Sydney FC managed to take back the high ground and when young striker Mitchell Mallia came into the game the Perth defence looked stretched.

Nathan Sherlock also came into the game for his A-League debut in the latter stages and made a great last-ditched tackle in the 85th minute,

which looked like it would save the day for Sydney FC.

Three minutes later however, Perth equalised when Adam Hughes met a corner with a tame header that found its way between Jamieson and the near post to break Sydney FC hearts again as the game finished 1-1.

Sydney FC has yet another short turn around, this time facing Gold Coast United at the Sydney Football Stadium this Sunday afternoon (22 January). Kick off for the match is 5pm.



Mark Bridge celebrates with Brett Emerton after scoring moments before half-time. Photo: GEOFF JONES



Terry McFlynn and Steve McGary go head-to-head. Photo: GEOFF JONES



Melbourne Heart

HEART

0

CC Mariners

1

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 0  
Central Coast Mariners 1 (Kwasnik 89')  
Referee: Strebre Delovski  
Crowd: 5,522 at AAMI Park, Melbourne

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (2. Daniel Mcbreen 73'), 9. Bernie Ibin, 11. Oliver Bozanic, 12. Troy Hearfield (23. Adam Kwasnik 77'), 14. Michael McGlinchey, 18. Alex Wilkinson (C), 22. Mustafa Amini (8. Rostyn Griffiths 61')

Subs Not Used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Wilkinson  
Red Cards: None

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint Bolton (Gk), 2. Michael Marrone, 3. Brendan Hamill, 6. Matthew Thompson, 7. Rutger Worm, 11. Alex Terra, 13. Jonatan Germano (8. Kristian Sarkies 66'), 15. David Williams (9. Calvalho Maycon 63'), 16. Aziz Behich, 17. Jason Hoffman (23. Mate Dugandzic 73'), 18. Curtis Good

Subs Not Used: 30. Sebastian MATTEI (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Hoffman  
Red Cards: None

# Mariners break Melbourne's Heart

By Daniel Quinn

Central Coast Mariners have stolen all three points at the depth to defeat Melbourne Heart 1-0 at AAMI Park on Wednesday night. Matt Ryan made many great saves to earn man of the match honours which was followed up with Adam Kwasnik's 89th minute winner. Melbourne Heart made three changes after their defeat to Perth Glory on Sunday with Mate Dugandzic and Eli Babalj having a rest with David Williams and Alex Terra coming in. Dugandzic is joined on the bench by Kristian Sarkies who makes way for Jonatan Germano. Pedj Bojic returns from suspension in place for Brad Porter which is the only change for the Central Coast Mariners. Melbourne Heart started with a fast tempo and created the first chance on 4 minutes when Aziz Behich put in a great cross for Jason Hoffman. But the Olyroo headed straight into the hands of Ryan.

Alex Terra was played in next by Hoffman but the Brazilian's right footed effort was well saved by Ryan. Terra was causing havoc cutting in from the left about half through the half and shot a long ranged effort which was deflected and then smashed off the upright after beating Ryan. On 31 minutes Ryan made a brilliant save to deny Behich's downward header after Rutger Worm's great cross. Five minutes before half-time Central Coast registered the first effort



Mariners have the last laugh thanks to Adam Kwasnik's goal. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

on target when Patrick Zwaanswijk headed straight into Clint Bolton without testing the 'keeper. Early into the second-half Alex Terra put in a fantastic chip through ball to Worm which the Dutch forward shot well on the volley but Ryan once again saved brilliantly. Only two minutes after Worm's effort Alex Terra tried his chances but Ryan was in the way to keep it scoreless. On 59 minutes Pedj Bojic made a great run forward for the visitors

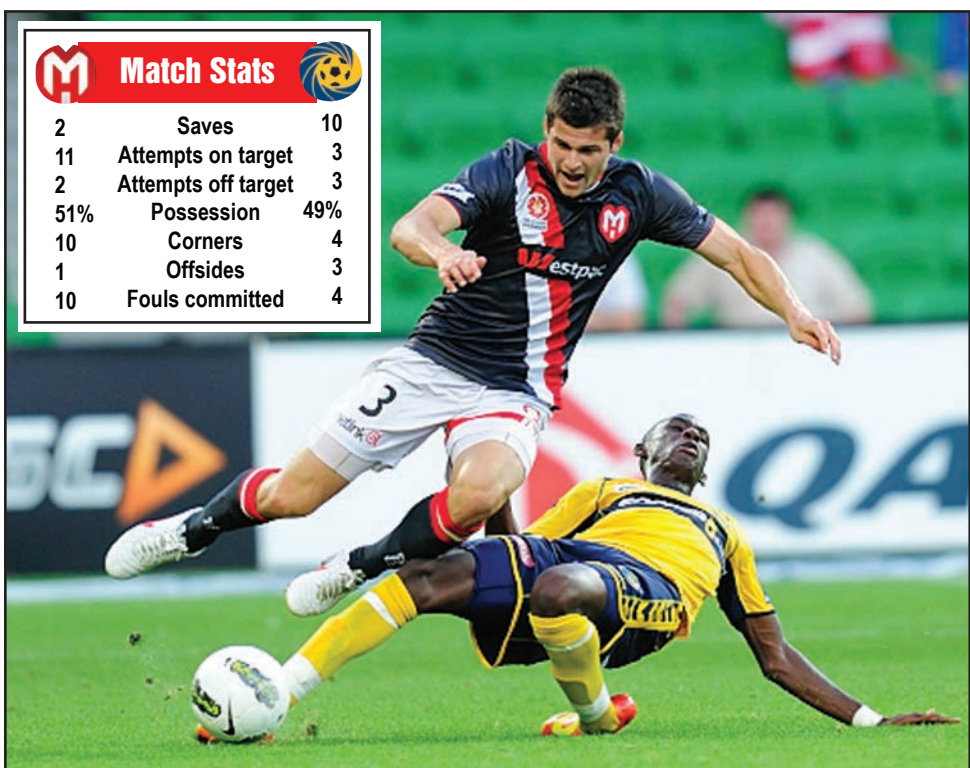
and shot with the outside of his foot but Bolton got down quickly to saved for the Heart. Five minutes later Michael Marrone made a great run on the right before crossing for Behich but the wide man's effort was easily saved. Almost immediately Alex Terra cut in from the left before shooting but his effort was hit straight at the in-form Ryan. Heart continued to push at a high tempo for a winner but Ryan saved Worm's header off Sarkies' corner.

Heart pushed and pushed for a winner and should have had it on 80 minutes. First Alex Terra tried to chip Ryan from distance but the ball was skied over Ryan's net. Worm then shot from outside of the box with his left foot but Ryan again parried to deny the Dutchman. At the resulting Sarkies corner Curtis Good scrambled the effort towards goal but the ball hit Worm in the head before it was cleared. Heart weren't having any luck in front of goal with Ryan putting in a

man of the match performance. In the last minute of normal time Kwasnik snatched all three points for the visitors with an easy finish at the far post after Michael McGlinchey's great cross. Mariners remain undefeated now for 14 games with Heart without a win in four games. Melbourne Heat coach John van 't Schip thought he side was unlucky to lose the game. "Yes we were (unlucky), we had really good opportunities to score but we didn't finish it off. I think the main thing from this evening is that we played well in big parts of the game and we didn't give away hardly anything then to lose the game in the end is very hard since we played well. I can only give good compliments to the boys who put in good efforts but it was not good enough to get three points. " Central Coast Mariners coach Graham Arnold though they didn't deserve the win. "We got three points we probably didn't deserve. You got to be honest, Heart were the better side, they had more chances, were the better side and I told the boys after the game that I am not happy. Yeah you got three points but it's not the performance I want. The kid next to me (Matt Ryan) won it for us tonight. Maybe it's a good sign that you don't play well and you win games. " Arnold went onto say that "I wouldn't be happy if I was Melbourne Heart," showing that Heart should have taken all three points



Patrick Zwaanswijk stretches to get his toe on the ball. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Heart's Brendan Hamill skips a challenge from Mariner Bernie Ibin. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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**1**

**1**

**Match Details**

**Central Coast Mariners 1**  
(Zwaanswijk 60')  
**Newcastle Jets 1** (Haliti 17')  
Referee: Matt Gillett  
Crowd: 10,904  
At Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford

**Central Coast Mariners:** 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 3. Joshua Rose, 5. Brad Porter (16. Trent Sainsbury 56'), 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson, 9. Bernie Ibini (23. Adam Kwasnik 66'), 11. Oliver Bozanic, 12. Troy Hearfield, 14. Michael McGlinchey, 18. Alex Wilkinson (C), 22. Mustafa Amini (2. Daniel McBreen 56')

Subs Not Used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)  
Yellow Cards: Hutchinson 45'  
Red Cards: None

**Newcastle Jets:** 1. Ben Kennedy (Gk), 2. Taylor Regan, 4. Nikolai Topper Stanley, 5. Tiago Calvano (13. Sung-Hwan Byun 63'), 6. Ben Kantarovski, 8. Jeremy Brockie, 10. Ruben Zadkovich, 14. Labinot Haliti (Ali Abbas 78'), 18. Marko Jesic (9. Michael Bridges 65'), 23. Ryan Griffiths (C), 25. Jacob Pepper

Subs Not Used: 19. Matthew Nash (Gk)  
Yellow Cards: Calvano 22', Kantarovski 71'  
Red Cards: None

# Mariners still coming to grips without Matt

By Adrian Deans

The question in my mind before the game was: how are the Mariners coping with life after Matt Simon?

Simon was incredibly important for the Mariners – not just their all-time top scorer, he was also (just about) their top creator of chances and won a great amount of ball in the enemy third. Ibini looks a fantastic prospect but is yet to acquire the ruthless/relentless streak that typified Simon.

In fact, Ibini reminds me of a young Thierry Henry who used to get effortlessly into good positions but missed far more than he scored. He'd give a little gallic shrug as if to say: "So I have missed. There will be more chances, non?"

Ibini still plays like an artist, whereas Simon played like a butcher.

Another issue for the Mariners was the suspension of Pedj Bojic. The Mariners back four have been machine-like in their effectiveness this season, and it can really upset such a machine to change one of its parts. So it proved.

The first 20 minutes was fairly tight with the Jets shading possession. Mustafa Amini appeared to be struggling to get into the game. Besides the wide options of Bojic and Rose, the Mariners are largely reliant for quality ball into the final third on Amini, who needs time on the ball to work his magic. He wasn't getting it. He was possibly missing the ball-winning style of both Rostyn Griffiths and Matt Simon, and had one of his less influential games.

So, if the Mariners weren't going to take the initiative at home, the Jets were happy to take charge. They started to control possession and territory and on 10 minutes, a dangerous cross from Zadkovich fell to Haliti, whose snap shot was straight at Ryan.

Then on 12 minutes a potentially game-changing incident – a dangerous two footed studs up tackle by Tiago on Ibini did not even concede a free kick. We have seen red cards for less this season.

On 17 minutes, the replacement part in the Mariners defensive machine proved faulty. Brad Porter allowed himself to be



	Match Stats	
2	Saves	3
7	Attempts on target	2
4	Attempts off target	4
47%	Possession	53%
6	Corners	5
2	Offsides	1
11	Fouls committed	15

The Jets draw first blood in the F3 Derby thanks to Labinot Haliti. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

closed down too easily, meaning his pass was rushed and intercepted by Ruben Zadkovich. Zadkovich raced down the left, found Jeremy Brockie whose first time cross was expertly volleyed inside the near post by Haliti – a counter-attacking goal straight out of the Mariners' training manual.

Almost immediately, the Mariners had a perfect, if undeserved, chance to get level. The Mariners received a penalty after a goalmouth scramble – and even now, I don't know what it was for. Troy Hearfield took responsibility and could hardly have made the save easier for Ben Kennedy – too close to the keeper at the perfect saveable height. It was almost an apolo-

getic shot for a penalty that shouldn't have been given in the first place.

It was the penalty miss that finally seemed to wake the Mariners out of their lethargy. McGlinchey started to have an impact on the game, running at the Jets defence and starting to create time for Amini as the Jets were forced to close him down in numbers. But still no real clear cut chances as the first half played itself out. The Jets deserved their lead after excellent performances by Kantarovski, Topor Stanley and Zadkovich. (Memo to Taylor Regan – every time you contest a header you lead with your elbow. Maybe that's what the linesman saw for the penalty?) Arnold made some changes both to per-

sonnel and shape just before the hour (enter McBreen for Amini and Sainsbury for Porter) and it led almost immediately to the equalising goal. Hearfield's superb run and cross from the right was desperately cleared by Taylor Regan but from the resultant corner, Patrick Zwaanswijk nipped in on the near post to leave the Jets defence like statues.

After that it was breathless, end to end derby fare. Both teams could have won it although the balance of chances greatly favoured the Mariners in the last 20 minutes. A draw, in the end, was the right result with great performances from most of the players – in particular Kantarovski and Topor Stanley for the Jets

and McGlinchey, Bozanic, Zwaanswijk and Wilkinson for the Mariners (who need Griffiths and Bojic back). The Jets, on this performance, will start to climb the table.

It was a fantastic game, enjoyed by nearly 11,000 under a drizzly sky. If the rain hadn't threatened there would have been several thousand more, but all who saw this game will be back for more in the future.

*Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. ebook also available at www.mrcleansheets.com*



Jets keeper Ben Kennedy saves Troy Hearfield's penalty. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Patrick Zwaanswijk pulls the Mariners level in the F3 derby with a timely taken header. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

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Brisbane Roar



2

Sydney FC



1

Match Details

**Brisbane Roar 2** (Mohamed Adnan 90+3', Besart Berisha 90+4')  
**Sydney FC 1** (Mark Bridge 39')  
Saturday, 14 January 2012  
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Referee: Ryan Shephard  
Crowd: 14, 545

**Brisbane Roar:** 1. Michael Theoklitos (Gk), 2. Matt Smith (C) (4. Matthew Jurman 46'), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Muroccca, 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran (22. Thomas Broich 55'), 14. Rocky Visconte (10. Henrique 55'), 16. Mohamed Adnan, 17. Mitch Nichols

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Andrew Redmayne (Gk)  
Yellow Cards: Matt Smith 38', Matt Jurman 90+2'  
Red Cards: Nil

**Sydney FC:** 1. Liam Reddy (Gk), 4. Pascal Bosschart, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 7. Brett Emerton, 8. Karol Kisel (9. Bruno Cazarine 88'), 10. Nick Carle (11. Dimitri Petratos 77'), 15. Terry Mcflynn (C), 17. Terry Antonis (2. Sebastian Ryall 85'), 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Scott Jamieson, 23. Rhyan Grant

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Ivan Necevski (Gk)  
Yellow Cards: Brett Emerton 28', Pascal Bosschart 90+4'  
Red Cards: Nil

# Roar stun SFC with late drama show

By Daniel Lato

A stunning injury time comeback from Brisbane Roar, including an inch-perfect free-kick from Mohamed Adnan and Besart Berisha's first goal in eight appearances, has secured an important 2-1 victory over Sydney FC at Suncorp Stadium. A foul on Erik Paartalu four minutes into injury time allowed Adnan to curl the dead ball into the top corner before Berisha's quick flick header sealed the victory with what was essentially the final play of the game.

Head Coach Ange Postecoglou named an unchanged line-up from the 1-1 away draw with Adelaide United seven days ago, opting to leave returning duo Thomas Broich and Henrique on the bench.

Sydney came flying out of the blocks from the opening whistle, forcing a corner inside thirty seconds, and were close to taking a sneaky lead on the five minute mark.

Qantas Socceroos veteran Brett Emerton headed a neat ball back to teammate Nick Carle but the striker's touch was far from ideal and the scuffed shot was easily tamed by Roar shotstopper Michael Theoklitos.

Brisbane's Ivan Franjic tried to give his side an instant reply to Sydney's early vigour, first setting up Massimo Muroccca on the edge of the penalty area before teeing up Mitch Nichols on the right wing – both strikes flying the wrong side of the woodwork.

Another key chance fell to Muroccca on the half hour mark, the pint-sized midfielder squeezing his way through a flurry of opposition defenders and going close to breaking his long-term goal drought with a clever shot from a tight angle.

The home side were made to rue their missed chances in the 39th minute after Mark Bridge latched onto a Carle pass and stroked the ball into the back of the net, via a deflection from the Brisbane 'keeper.

Bridge almost had his second on the stroke of half-time, the intervention of a flying Theoklitos preventing the striker from getting a clean touch with



Match Stats		
2	Saves	3
7	Attempts on target	3
6	Attempts off target	5
58%	Possession	42%
3	Corners	2
5	Offsides	2
7	Fouls committed	9

Roar's Besart Berisha scores a dramatic injury-time winner much to the delight of Mitch Nichols . Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

his head and the score remained 1-0 at the break.

The early stages of the second stanza saw Franjic try his luck from range before clever attacking from Berisha saw the Albanian striker force a save from Sydney goalkeeper Liam Reddy with a cheeky back-heel.

Matt Jurman was a half-time replacement for injured captain Matt Smith, who suffered a groin strain, but the biggest cheer of the night was reserved for the 55th minute double substitution which saw Broich and Henrique thrown into the fray as replacements for Issey Nakajima-Farran and Rocky Visconte. The pair re-joined the action without

a hitch, Broich immediately chiming in with his pin-point passing, while the Brazilian livewire's trademark speed was tough for the Sydney defenders to contain.

As the match wore on, the home side continued to dictate play with the Sky Blue defence content to sit back and soak up the pressure from the Roar's attacking third.

Brisbane thought they had a well-deserved equaliser with just two minutes remaining on the clock but Berisha's run was too early and the assistant referee correctly raised his flag for offside.

However, the game was far from over. When Paartalu was brought down at the head of the penalty area, most at Suncorp Stadium would have thought Roar dead-ball specialist Broich to take control but Adnan showed he was more than worthy of the responsibility, striking the ball with the ideal combination of precision and power to level the score line.

Brisbane sealed the result in emphatic fashion less than sixty seconds later, the deftest of touches from Berisha's head eluding Reddy and sending the 14, 545 into absolute elation.

Crazy scenes erupted on the Suncorp

Stadium pitch as the full time whistle blew but nothing could take away from the never-say-die attitude of Head Coach Ange Postecoglou's squad. "It was quite incredible finish to the game," Postecoglou said. "We've seen some rippers here at Suncorp over the last 18 months and that will go down with them as well. "Once again, this group of players, I know they'll go right to the final whistle, they won't throw the towel in. "It was an incredible finish in terms of the way we got the result."



Mohammed Adnam's injury time equaliser appeared to have saved the day, but it was only just the beginning of the drama to unfold. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Sydney FC's Scott Jamieson does a great Starsky and Hutch impression. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



## Melbourne Heart

HEART



1

## Perth Glory



2

## Match Details

### Central Coast Mariners 1

(Zwaanswijk 60')

### Newcastle Jets 1 (Halioti 17')

Crowd: 7,233 at AAMI Park, Melbourne

### Melbourne Heart

1.Clint Bolton, 2.Michael Marrone, 3.Brendan Hamill, 6.Matt Thompson, 7.Rutger Worm (11.Alex Terra 56'), 8.Kristian Sarkies (9.Maycon 81'), 16.Aziz Behich, 17.Jason Hoffman (13.Jonatan Germano 61'), 18.Curtis Good, 19.Eli Babalj, 23.Mate Dugandzic, (GK)

Unused substitutes: 30.Sebastian Mattei

Yellow cards: Kristian Sarkies 66'

Red cards: Nil

### Perth Glory

1.Danny Vukovic, 3.Bas Van Den Brink, 5.Steve Pantelidis, 7.Jacob Burns, 9.Shane Smeltz, 10.Liam Miller, 13.Travis Dodd (8.Adam Hughes 88'), 14.Steven McGarry, 17.Todd Howarth, 19, Josh Risdon, 21.Mile Sterjovski (16.Evan Berger 72').

Unused substitutes: 27.Andrezinho, 30. Lewis Italiano

Yellow cards: Liam Miller 87

Red cards: Nil

# Glory continues impressive away form at Heart

By Roy Hay

Perth Glory was good value for its two-one away win over Melbourne Heart at AAMI Park on Sunday afternoon.

Kristian Sarkies started for Heart along with Jason Hoffmann and Matt Thompson in midfield. Brendan Hamill, Curtis Good, Aziz Behich and Michael Marrone gave the Heart the youngest backline in the A-League and they were thoroughly tested on the day.

Bas van den Brink was back for Perth, but striker Billy Mehmet did not come up. Steve Pantelidis started in defence alongside van den Brink and Evan Berger, another former Victory player, was on the bench.

Sarkies had a free kick in the tenth minute which did not trouble Danny Vukovic and a long ball forward from Clint Bolton was nodded on by Eli Babalj to Rutger Worm but the final shot sailed high and wide.

Kristian Sarkies was robbed by Jacob Burns in his own half and the Glory skipper slipped the ball to Liam Miller.

The Scottish playmaker put a delicious through ball in front of Shane Smeltz who finished as clinically as ever in the 16th minute.

On the half-hour Heart had a couple of near things.

Vukovic punched away another Sarkies free kick and Babalj's header hit the post with the keeper scrambling. Eli Babalj worked his way into the penalty area but was brought down by Jacob Burns.

Smeltz should have had a second goal in the 33rd minute when Brendan Hamill fell over in front of him as the cross came in from Mile Sterjovski. Bolton blocked the first attempt and



Steve McGarry nets the winner and shares the glory with travelling Perth fans. Photo: ANITA MILAS

M	Match Stats	GLORY
4	Saves	2
4	Attempts on target	7
8	Attempts off target	3
56%	Possession	44%
4	Corners	3
1	Offsides	2
9	Fouls committed	9

Aziz Behich slid in to block the second.

Four minutes before the interval van den Brink seemed to handle the ball not once but twice in the penalty box as he fell and tried to scramble it away but referee Chris Beath was not interested.

On the hour Behich had a great slaloming run down the left but the final ball was just behind Babalj who could not connect with it.

A similar run and cross from Behich was just too high for the leaping substitute Jonathan Germano and the ball went harmlessly over.

A spell of Heart pressure then produced the equaliser.

Jacob Burns brought down Babalj just inside the box and this time the referee awarded the penalty.

Matt Thompson's kick was turned away by Danny Vukovic who moved early, but Kristian Sarkies reacted quickest and put the ball back into the net.

That was in the 66th minute.

Ian Ferguson, the Perth coach, was leaping in delight at the Vukovic save, but in disgust a second later as his defence failed to react quickly enough to the rebound.

Parity only lasted two minutes as Mile Sterjovski cut in from the left and shot along the deck.

Bolton went down and spilled the ball, and then clawed it into the path of Steve McGarry who finished from inside the goal area.

Heart brought on Maycon to try to conjure another equaliser but the visitors held firm and might have had another goal towards the end.

John van't Schip thought Heart had lots of possession, but most of it was deep in their own half, and the Glory really strangled the life out of the Heart in the latter stages.

Ian Ferguson said his team had been playing good football but not getting the breaks, while in the last five matches it had taken advantage of the rub of the green.

Van't Schip poured cold water on any suggestion that Heart would be diving into the transfer market to try to replace skipper Fred on a permanent or temporary basis.

It was not possible in the time to get someone from overseas, while none of the local players of sufficient quality would be uncontracted or fit enough to slot straight in to replace the ones he had at his disposal.



Kristian Sarkies scores his sceond goal in successive week, but alas it wasn't enough on this occasion. Photo: DANIEL PANTER



An animated Ali Babalj (Heart) is stopped in his tracks by Steve Pantelidis (Glory). Photo: TIM SIZE

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Gold Coast United

0

Wellington Phoenix

1

Match Details

GOLD COAST UNITED 0  
WELLINGTON PHOENIX 1 (Brown 88')  
HT: 0-0  
Referee: Kurt Ams  
At Skilled Park, Gold Coast  
Crowd: 2135

**Gold Coast United:**  
20.Jerrad Tyson [gk], 3.Michael Thwaite (c), 5.Kristian Rees (12.Dylan Macallister 63') (21.Daniel Severino 77'), 6.Paul Beekmans (29.Mitch Bevan 88'), 13.Ante Rozic, 14.Ben Halloran, 15.Adama Traore, 16.Maceo Rigters, 18.James Brown, 22.Peter Jungschlager, 24.Jonas Salley.

Unused subs: 40.Chris O'Connor [gk].  
Yellow cards: Rees 21' Thwaite 73'.  
Red cards: None.

**Wellington Phoenix**  
1.Mark Paston [gk], 2.Manny Muscat, 3.Tony Lochhead, 6.Tim Brown, 8.Paul Ifill, 9.Chris Greenacre, 12.Nicky Ward (19.Jimmy Downey 66'), 18.Ben Sigmund, 21.Dani Sanchez (7.Leo Bertos 50'), 22.Andrew Durante (c), 24.Alex Smith (11.Daniel 82').

Unused subs: 20.Tony Warner [gk].  
Yellow cards: Brown 58', Ifill 86'.  
Red cards: None.

# 'Nix strike gold with cruel blow

By Neil Favager

A TIM Brown header two minutes from time gave Wellington Phoenix all three points at Skilled Park, the visitor's going home with a 1-0 win despite the best efforts of Miron Bleiberg's men.

It was a heartbreaking result for Gold Coast, who again had the chances to put the Phoenix away before Brown's powerful header decided the match.

Adama Traore struck the post with a thunderous drive just after half time and Peter Jungschlager watched in frustration as his effort two minutes later was spilled by Kiwi keeper Mark Paston, but then miraculously cleared off the line by Manny Muscat with Kristian Rees closing in.

United were camped in the Wellington half for most of the second 45 minutes with chances few and far between for Ricki Herbert's men until Brown thumped home Daniel's inviting free-kick.

Miron Bleiberg described the game as the story of Gold Coast's season told in one match. Chances came and went, his players ran themselves into the ground and luck deserted them at vital moments.

However, credit must go to Wellington who defended stoutly throughout, mainly thanks to Ben Sigmund and Andrew Durante who were rock solid at the back for the visitors. When United did penetrate they found Paston in fine form and a string of superb saves only added to United's frustration.

It took the home side until past the midway point of the half to really settle and when they did the chances began to come. Maceo Rigters



Phoenix's Tim Brown punches the air in delight after clinching a late winner. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Match Stats		
3	Saves	6
9	Attempts on target	5
7	Attempts off target	7
54%	Possession	46%
7	Corners	7
1	Offsides	0
17	Fouls committed	10

had a powerful drive blocked, then a weaving run from Halloran ended in a spectacular overhead kick after the youngster exchanged passes with Rigters.

Blond winger Halloran's influence was growing by the minute and another speedy run would have bore fruit had it not been for the timely intervention of Phoenix defender Andrew Durante. Michael Thwaite

had a header cleared off the line and for the second week running Paul Beekmans was denied a goal, this time by a fine point-blank save from Paston.

After finishing the first half strongly Gold Coast started the second in the same vein and upped the tempo in search of the solitary goal that seemed destined to win the game. Traore's effort against the post and

Jungschlager's long-range strike were followed up by Paul Beekmans' 20-metre drive and Maceo Rigters' header that flashed wide.

At the other end Chris Greenacre saw a speculative effort land on the top of the net and Jimmy Downey's weak effort was well saved by Jerrad Tyson after Jonas Salley's soft back pass let the Wellington man in on goal.

"That was pretty much how our season has gone so far – we make chances, don't take them and get punished, but that's what happens in football," said Miron Bleiberg after the game.

"Credit to Wellington; they came here with a plan, defended well, were hard but not dirty and went away with a win."



In a day out for 'keepers, Gold Coast's Jerrad Tyson spoils this close range effort by Tim Brown. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Manny Muscat comes to the 'Nix's rescue to clear off the line. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

BE A PART OF MELBOURNE'S HEART



Melbourne Victory

1

Adelaide United

1

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 1

(Archie Thompson 6')

Adelaide United 1

(Sergio van Dijk 53')

Venue: AAMI Park

Referee: Jarred Gillett

Attendance: 20,959

**Melbourne Victory:** 21. Ante Covic, 2. Matthew Foschini, 3. Fabio, 6. Leigh Broxham, 8. Grant Brebner (4. Petar Franjic 87'), 10. Archie Thompson, 12. Rodrigo Vargas, 16. Carlos Hernandez (13. Diogo Ferreira 71'), 18. Danny Allsopp (9. Jean Carlos Solorzano 64'), 22. Harry Kewell, 23. Adrian Leijer

Unused substitutes: 20. Lawrence Thomas

Yellow cards: Grant Brebner 44', Fabio 82'

Red cards: nil

**Adelaide United:** 1.Eugene Galekovic, 2.Osama Malik, 3.Nigel Boogaard, 5.Daniel Mullen, 7.Zenon Caravella, 9.Sergio van Dijk, 10.Dario Vidolic, 11.Bruce Djite, 12.Antony Golec, 14.Cameron Watson, 18.Fabian Barbiero (15.Jacob Melling 75'),

Unused substitutes: 20.Mark Birighitti, 21.Francisco Usucar, 17.Iain Ramsay.

Yellow cards: Nigel Boogaard 66'

Red cards: Nil

# Reds roll to hold Magilton's Victory

By Daniel Quinn

Adelaide United have held Jim Magilton's Melbourne Victory to a 1-1 draw at AAMI Park on Friday night. Despite falling behind John Kosmina's side were able to fight back to collect a point.

In Jim Magilton's first game as Victory manager he makes one change from last week's defeat of Newcastle Jets with Adrian Leijer coming back from injury to replace Petar Franjic. Adelaide boss John Kosmina also makes one change with Osama Malik replacing Francisco Usucar.

The hosts created the first chance on 5 minutes when Harry Kewell played in Archie Thompson whose shot was deflected onto the post by Eugene Galekovic in goals.

Only a minute later the same combination resulted in the opening goal. Kewell did brilliantly to beat Zenon Caravella and Cameron Watson before crossing to Thompson who beat Antony Golec to tap home, Thompson's seventh of the season.

Adelaide dominated possession for the next 15 minutes before Thompson played a first-time chip to Carlos Hernandez whose volley went just wide.

Four minutes later Kewell was showing some great form when he played in Danny Allsopp whose strike was put into the side netting. However a corner was given and with the resulting corner Leijer's strike was blocked off the line by an Adelaide defender before being cleared.

On 35 minutes Hernandez played Thompson in and the forward poked his effort past Galekovic but Daniel Mullen recovered to clear off the line as the ball trickled towards the net.

Two minutes into the second-half Hernandez put in a great ball which was deflected towards goal but Galekovic pulled off a fantastic save.

Danny Allsopp was next to try his chances after a brilliant cross from Kewell but



Archie Thompson gets the Victory bursting out of the blocks with a early opener. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Allsopp's diving header was put wide.

On 53 minutes Adelaide scored an equaliser. Nigel Boogaard flicked a Dario Vidolic corner onto the crossbar before Sergio van Dijk finished at the far post to score against Victory once again. This game becomes the tenth straight game which Victory hasn't been able to keep a clean sheet.

On 69 minutes Kewell almost scored goal of the season when he received the ball on the right and beat a couple of defenders before cutting onto his left foot and shooting a powerful strike. Unfortunately for the Socceroo the ball smashed off the crossbar.

Five minutes later second-half substitute Jean-Carlos Solorzano cut in from the left before passing a great ball through to Thompson but the experienced forward couldn't control the ball.

On 80 minutes the Reds had two chances in a minute when Vidolic was in possession but his strike was saved well by Covic. Covic then denied Djite after the former Gold Coast United striker turned and shot straight at the 'keeper. Four minute later Leijer come up for a Kewell free-kick but his subsequent header was deflected. The captain then couldn't get a proper connection on the resulting corner.

On 86 minutes van Dijk turned on the edge of the box but his shot was scuffed wide without testing Covic.

Two minutes later Adelaide could have snatched it when Vidolic put in a brilliant corner but Boogaard's header sailed just wide of the upright.

Adelaide looked happy to hold on for the draw with an attacking option with Iain Ramsay not used off the bench. Kosmina keeps his undefeated record in his second spell of Adelaide United boss whereas Magilton starts off with a draw. New Melbourne Victory coach Jim Magilton was pleased with his side's performance despite the result. "I think we

were dominant in the first-half, I think if we took our chances we probably would have won the game comfortably but credit to them to come back at us and cause a few problems second-half. But all in all I am pleased with our overall performance."

Adelaide United boss John Kosmina though a draw was a fair result. "You always want to have a win but by the same token Melbourne hit the bar, they hit the post Eugene [Galekovic] made a good save in the first-half as well, maybe 2. So maybe a draw was a fair result but I am happy with the progression we have made week by week."



Nigel Boogard and Cameron Watson close down Carlos Solorzano. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Jlm Magilton takes charge of Melbourne Victory for the first time. Photo: TIM SIZE

MELBOURNE Victory	Match Stats	ADELAIDE UNITED F.C.
2	Saves	1
7	Attempts on target	7
8	Attempts off target	8
48%	Possession	52%
6	Corners	8
2	Offsides	0
11	Fouls committed	17

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## Jets Line Up

1. Ben Kennedy (gk)  
2. Taylor Regan  
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley  
6. Ben Kantarovski  
8. Jeremy Brockie  
9. Michael Bridges  
10. Ruben Zadkovich  
11. Tarek Elrich  
12. Jobe Wheelhouse (c)  
13. Sung-Hwan Byun  
14. Labinot Haliti  
18. Marco Jesic  
19. Matthew Nash  
22. Ali Abbas  
23. Ryan Griffiths  
25. Jacob Pepper  
26. Connor Chapman  
\*two to be omitted\*

In: 26. Connor Chapman (promoted), 11. Tarek Elrich (returns from suspension), 12. Jobe Wheelhouse (returns from virus)

Out: 5. Tiago Calvano (suspended – 1 match)

Unavailable: Sam Gallaway (knee), 24. Francis Jeffers (ankle)

## Newcastle Jets v Wellington Phoenix

Fri 20 Jan Ausgrid Stadium 8:00pm

By Shaun Dyas

Several players have described it as their lowest point of the season. Ryan Griffiths told of how he was brought to tears by the shame of it all. On Friday night, the Jets have their shot at redemption.

After the embarrassment of being thrashed 5-2 by The Wellington Phoenix in the windy city, the Jets have the chance for redemption when the two sides meet at Ausgrid Stadium. Newcastle will carry some encouraging form into the match despite some of their off field distractions, including a fall out between manager Gary Van Egmond and senior player Kasey Wehrman.

The Novocastrians are fresh off their second away point of the season against the runaway competition leaders the Central Coast Mariners. Many pundits believed the Jets were the better side in the contest and if it were not for slack marking from a set piece, they could have emerged with all three points.

The Phoenix on the other hand are a bit of an enigma in recent times. Two starts ago they were beaten at their normal fortress in Wellington by a late winner for the Perth Glory.

Last weekend they were battered by the Gold Coast at Skilled Park but emerged with all three points after a late header by Kiwi international Tim Brown.



**Odds:**  
**Jets 2.20**  
**Draw 3.50**  
**Phoenix 3.50**

## Newcastle Intent on Revenge

The Kiwi midfielder and former Jet will again be a key player for the Phoenix. His ability to get on the end of crosses with his late forays into the box could be one of the best ways for the Phoenix to break down the Jets. Couple this with the class and skill of forward Paul Ifill and the silky skills of Spaniard Dani Sanchez and the Phoenix have more than enough ammunition to make the Jets night a very difficult one.

The home side are starting to see the benefits of Gary Van Egmond's possession based pressing style. One player who has emerged as crucial to this system is the young

Midfielder Jacob Pepper.

Many in Newcastle were worried when Van Egmond decided to drop Wehrman, but the youth team product has prospered in the Newcastle engine room and has been one of the standouts in recent weeks.

Jeremy Brockie is a man that will have to be closely marked by the Phoenix. The Kiwi striker has hit the net on six occasions this season, all at Ausgrid Stadium, with some of the strikes being contenders for goal of the season.

A big performance from Ryan Griffiths would not surprise. The winger has been one of the Jets best all

**HEAD-TO-HEAD: All matches (played 15): Newcastle Jets wins 4, Wellington Phoenix wins, 10 (1 draw)**

**Kiss of Death Victory 2- 1 AUFC**



## Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)  
2. Manny Muscat  
3. Tony Lochhead  
6. Tim Brown  
7. Leo Bertos  
8. Paul Ifill  
9. Chris Greenacre  
11. Daniel  
12. Nicky Ward  
15. Cameron Lindsay  
18. Ben Sigmund  
19. Jimmy Downey  
20. Tony Warner (GK)  
21. Dani Sanchez  
22. Andrew Durante (C)  
24. Alex Smith  
\*one to be omitted\*

In: Cameron Lindsay (promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Vince Lia (knee injury 1 to 2 weeks), Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite)



## Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)  
2. Daniel McBreen  
3. Joshua Rose  
4. Pedj Bojic  
5. Brad Porter  
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk  
7. John Hutchinson  
8. Rostyn Griffiths  
9. Bernie Ibini  
10. Adriano Pellegrino  
11. Oliver Bozanic  
12. Troy Hearfield  
13. Stuart Musialik  
14. Michael McGlinchey  
15. Brad McDonald  
16. Trent Sainsbury  
17. Tomas Rogic  
18. Alex Wilkinson (C)  
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)  
21. Sam Gallagher  
22. Mustafa Amini  
23. Adam Kwasnik  
\*seven to be omitted\*

In: 5. Brad Porter, 10. Adriano Pellegrino, 13. Stuart Musialik, 15. Brad McDonald, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 17. Tomas Rogic, 21. Sam Gallagher (All Promoted)

Out: Nil  
Unavailable: Nil

## CC Mariners v Adelaide United

Sat 21 Jan Bluetongue Stdm 5:30pm

By Adrian Deans

The Mariners have not been the same team since Matt Simon left.

Not just their all-time top scorer, Simon was a Mariners talisman – the bloke who so often lifted in the final third to pressure the other team into error and create a chance for himself or a team mate. Chunnam Dragons are getting the benefit of that clinical work rate now, and the Mariners need to find new routes to goal.

Bernie Ibini has not been nearly as effective without his erstwhile partner in crime, but on the plus side – Michael McGlinchey has been in excellent form and Ollie Bozanic has started to regain the attacking form of Season Six.

Saturday's visitors, Adelaide United, are still enjoying the Kossie effect – five games without loss and playing very good football. Adelaide have come from the bottom of the table to be knocking on the door on the top six – one point behind Sydney with a game in hand.

Just as importantly, the Reds are playing good football – employing a shape and discipline that I (for one) would have suspected was beyond a Kossie-coached team. Sergio Van Dijk is scoring for fun and at the other end, Eugene Galekovic is arguably the form keeper of the competition (although Mat Ryan might have something to say about that).



## Mariners on Red alert

**Odds:**  
**Mariners 1.80**  
**Draw 3.55**  
**AUFC 4.70**

The Kozzie bubble has to burst at some point. A trip to Gosford has usually been fairly daunting for Adelaide over the years, but I'm just not convinced by the Mariners at the moment (which Graham Arnold might regard as cheek, given they're nine points clear). They could have lost to the Jets last weekend, and should have lost to the Heart in midweek. The return of Rostyn Griffiths will make a huge difference – not least to Mustafa Amini who has looked a little lost without a ball winner in front and behind (ie, Griffiths and Simon).

The normally brilliant Mariners de-

fence looked shaky last week with the absence of Pedj Bojic, and despite his return midweek, the Mariners were reliant for their clean sheet on the brilliance of Mat Ryan. Going forward, against both the Jets and the Heart, the Mariners did not have their usual control of possession (teams have learned to put pressure on the wide backs and Amini).

In contrast, Adelaide controlled the ball for most of the second half last week against the Victory, at AAMI Park, and that speaks volumes for how far they've come under John Kosmina. Caravella, Watson and Mullen

are all doing well in the middle and Nigel Boogaard will relish a return to his former home ground. I suspect they will trouble the Central Coast far more than they have in recent times.

*Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. ebook also available at [www.mrcleansheets.com](http://www.mrcleansheets.com)*

**Kiss of Death Mariners 1-1 AUFC**



## Adelaide Utd Line Up

1. Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)  
2. Osama Malik  
3. Nigel Boogaard  
5. Daniel Mullen  
7. Zenon Caravella  
9. Sergio van Dijk  
10. Dario Vidosic  
11. Bruce Djite  
12. Antony Golec  
14. Cameron Watson  
15. Jacob Melling  
16. Spase Dilevski  
17. Iain Ramsay  
18. Fabian Barbiero  
20. Mark Birighitti (gk)  
21. Francisco Usucar  
\*one to be omitted\*

In: Spase Dilevski (returns from injury)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Milan Susak (hamstring), Cassio (foot), Jon McKain (knee), Evgeniy Levchenko (groin)

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## Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton
2. Michael Marrone
3. Brendan Hamill
4. Simon Colosimo
6. Matt Thompson
7. Rutger Worm
8. Kristian Sarkies
9. Maycon
11. Alex Terra
13. Jonatan Germano
15. David Williams
16. Aziz Behich
17. Jason Hoffman
18. Curtis Good
19. Eli Babalj
23. Mate Dugandzic
30. Sebastian Mattei \*two to be omitted\*

In: Eli Babalj (promoted), Simon Colosimo (returns from injury)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Nick Kalmar (back – 4 weeks), Kliment Taseski (foot – 4 to 6 weeks), Fred (groin – 4 to 6 weeks), Wayne Srhoj (quad – 1 week)

## Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar

Sat 21 Jan AAMI Park 7:45pm

By John Clark

The Melbourne Heart host Ange Postecoglou's world beating Brisbane Roar this weekend, hoping to arrest a new year's hangover that has seen them only garner one point from their last four outings.

On Wednesday night the Heart hosted the ladder leading Mariners at AAMI Park and in all honesty dominated the contest from start to finish. Unbelievably they walked away empty handed after an Adam Kwasi goal robbed Heart of a point in a game they deserved three.

The Heart must accept fault for the loss, as it was their poor finishing that kept the Mariners in the contest, as well as Mariners youngster Matt Ryan who is surely Europe bound after another outstanding performance between the sticks.

Despite the result signs were positive for John Van't Schip's men and they certainly went a long way to dispelling the myth that they were a one man team. The Brisbane Roar achieved one of the greatest comebacks in A-League history on Saturday night when they come from a goal down four minutes into injury time to not only snatch a late equalizer, but also grab the winner to leave Sydney heartbroken. Unfortunately the amazing feat was overshadowed by a post game melee. They match itself was a stark reminder just what this Brisbane team is capable of, their indomitable will to



## Orange Army visits Heart

Odds:  
Heart 3.60  
Draw 3.50  
Roar 2.15

HEAD-TO-HEAD:  
All matches  
(played 4):  
Melbourne Heart  
wins 1, Brisbane  
Roar wins 3, (0  
draws)

win means that opposition teams cannot afford even a momentary lapse in concentration. These sides have met once so far this season with the Heart coming away with a 2-1 victory at Suncorp Stadium.

The Heart put together an outstanding first half with Germano scoring from a header and Eli Babalj putting the finishing touch on arguably the best team goal of the season. In the second half the Heart seemed to run out of energy and sat back inviting wave after wave of Brisbane attacks.

Eventually Mitch Nicholls found the back of the net, but the Heart with-

stood another 15 minutes of attacking pressure to come away with a famous win.

Of great concern to John Van't Schip must be his side's home form, having not taken a point at AAMI Park since their terrific derby win over the Victory a month ago. The Roar seem to be regaining some confidence having lost five consecutive games in December, they have strung together four games unbeaten, but are still a way off their absolute peak form. Both sides look like they'll be without their skippers for this match with Fred still four weeks away and Brisbane unlikely to risk

Matt Smith, who suffered a knock to his leg against Sydney.

The Heart is likely to regain Simon Colosimo and Wayne Srhoj however. I think the Roar should be able to come away with the points here, the Heart are struggling with injuries and these constant disruptions to the starting lineup can't be a good thing. They should however be able to find the back of the net if they create as many chances as they did against the Mariners.

Kiss of Death  
Heart 2-3 Roar



## Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theoklitos (GK)
  2. Matt Smith (C)
  3. Shane Stefanutto
  4. Matt Jurman
  5. Ivan Franjic
  6. Erik Paarlatu
  7. Besart Berisha
  8. Massimo Murdocca
  9. Kofi Danning
  10. Henrique
  11. Issey Nakajima-Farran
  14. Rocky Visconte
  16. Mohamed Adnan
  17. Mitch Nichols
  18. Luke Brattan
  19. Jack Hingert
  20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
  22. Thomas Broich
- \*three to be omitted\*

In: 19. Jack Hingert (promoted), 18. Luke Brattan (promoted), 9. Kofi Danning (promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Nil



## Sydney FC Line Up

1. Liam Reddy
  2. Sebastian Ryall
  3. Jamie Coyne
  4. Pascal Bosschaart
  5. Michael Beauchamp
  7. Brett Emerton
  8. Karol Kisel
  9. Bruno Cazarine
  10. Nick Carle
  11. Dimi Petratos
  12. Shannon Cole
  15. Terry McFlynn (c)
  17. Terry Antonis
  18. Juho Makela
  19. Mark Bridge
  20. Ivan Necevski
  21. Scott Jamieson
  23. Rhyen Grant
- \*three to be omitted\*

In: Scott Jamieson, Jamie Coyne, Juho Makela (all promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Mitch Mallia (knee – 1 week)

## Sydney FC v Gold Coast United

Sun 22 Jan SFStadium 5:00pm

By Mike Salter

Sydney FC face Gold Coast United at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday afternoon, and to say that both teams find themselves desperately in need of a win would be a gross understatement.

Sydney FC are without a win in six, after Adam Hughes' last-ditch equaliser for Perth Glory on Wednesday prevented what looked like being a morale-boosting victory after four straight losses. Miron Bleiberg's side also suffered a last-minute heartbreaker in their last outing, Tim Brown's superb header giving Wellington Phoenix a win at Skilled Park which left the men from the Gold Coast still four points adrift in the A-League basement.

Vitezslav Lavicka will be glad to welcome back his defensive leader Pascal Bosschaart, who was suspended for the game against Perth; the Dutchman may replace Sebastian Ryall in the starting eleven, although Scott Jamieson, whose error gifted Perth their goal in Campbelltown, could also make way, with Ryall moving to left-back. Otherwise, it is likely to be an unchanged Sydney side: Lavicka has shown faith in his preferred person-



## Win could be just the tonic

Odds:  
SFC 1.87  
Draw 3.50  
Gold Coast 4.15

HEAD-TO-HEAD: All matches  
(played 8): Sydney FC wins 2,  
Gold Coast United wins 4,  
(2 draws)

nel despite a number of sub-par performances, and although younger players such as Mitchell Mallia and Joel Chianese must be coming into first-team contention, Lavicka's selections have been distinctly conservative thus far.

As for the always unpredictable Bleiberg, he is likely to be without experienced striker Dylan McAllister, who appeared to exacerbate an existing injury against Wellington. The probable absence of McAllister may present set-piece specialist Daniel Severino, a bit-part player in

Gold Coast's season so far, with a chance to show his wares over 90 minutes. Young Ben Halloran has hit some of the few bright notes in this campaign for Bleiberg's side, but the coach will certainly be looking for a return to form from James Brown, who has not kicked on from his early-season successes.

Although Sydney FC won the last encounter between the two sides at the SFS in highly dramatic fashion, hauling back a two-goal deficit before breaking the deadlock in injury time, Lavicka will certainly not

want to give his side a mountain to climb yet again. Sydney have shown an infuriating tendency to let their concentration slip early in the piece this term, and have conceded the opening goal in the vast majority of their home games. In a painful irony, it has been the concession of late goals that has been Sydney's undoing in their last two outings; could there be a happy medium somewhere?

Kiss of Death  
SFC 2-2 Gold Coast



## Gold Coast Line Up

20. Jerrard Tyson [gk]
  3. Michael Thwaite (c)
  4. Zac Anderson
  5. Kristian Rees
  10. Tahj Minniecon
  13. Ante Rozic
  14. Ben Halloran
  15. Adama Traore
  16. Maceo Rigters
  17. Chris Harold
  18. James Brown
  21. Daniel Severino
  22. Peter Jungschlager
  23. Dylan McGowan
  24. Jonas Salley
  28. Daniel Bowles
  29. Mitch Bevan
  40. Chris O'Connor [gk]
- \*three to be omitted\*

In: 4. Zac Anderson, 10. Tahj Minniecon, 17. Chris Harold, 23. Dylan McGowan, 28. Daniel Bowles (all promoted).

Out: 12. Dylan Macallister (hamstring – 6 weeks), 6. Paul Beekmans (personal leave – 2 weeks), Unavailable: 1. Glen Moss (groin injury – 6 weeks), 9. Joel Porter (calf – 3 weeks), 19. Chris Broadfoot (ankle injury – indefinite)

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## Glory Line Up

1.Danny VUKOVIC (gk)  
2. Josh MITCHELL  
3.Bas van den BRINK  
4.Billy MEHMET  
5.Steve PANTELIDIS  
7.Jacob BURNS (c)  
8.Adam HUGHES  
9.Shane SMELTZ  
10.Liam MILLER  
14.Steven McGARRY  
15.Tommy AMPHLETT  
16.Evan BERGER  
17.Todd HOWARTH  
18 Jesse MAKAROUNAS  
19, Josh RISDON  
21.Mile STERJOVSKI  
22.Adam TAGGART  
27.ANDREZINHO  
30. Lewis ITALIANO (gk)  
35. Dean HEFFERNAN  
\*five to be omitted\*

In: 2. Josh MITCHELL (returns from injury), 4.Billy MEHMET (returns from injury) 15.Tommy AMPHLETT (promoted), 18 Jesse MAKAROUNAS (promoted), 35. Dean HEFFERNAN (promoted)  
Out: Nil  
Unavailable: 6.Chris COYNE (Achilles), 11.Victor SIKORA (hip – long term injury list), 12.Scott NEVILLE (knee), 13.Travis DODD (abdominal strain)

## Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory

By Jacob Kagi

Melbourne Victory will be desperate to climb back into the top six when they travel to face fellow finals contenders Perth Glory at nib Stadium on Sunday.

The Glory's suddenly resurgent form, which has seen them take seven points from their past three games in a vast improvement on their previous run of one win from 11 matches, has pushed the Victory down to seventh spot.

Both sides are involved in the mid-table congestion which sees just a four point gap between fifth-placed Perth and ninth-placed Newcastle, making Sunday's clash vital for both sides.

Melbourne have won just one of their past five games, but just one of those encounters was under new coach Jim Magilton - last Friday's 1-1 draw with Adelaide United.

The Victory had their chances against Adelaide and were again frustrated to come away from a game they should have won without the three points, but Magilton said he could see the positives.

"Rome wasn't built in a day and they've had four or five days with me," the coach, who replaced Mehmet Durakovic, said after the United match.

"I think we were dominant in the first half and I think if we had taken our chances we probably would have won the game comfortably.

"I'm really pleased with the application of the players, really pleased with our attitude."



## Victory take on in-form Glory

**HEAD-TO-HEAD:**  
All matches (played 19): Perth Glory wins 7, Melbourne Victory wins 7, (5 draws)

**Odds:**  
Glory 2.50  
Draw 3.40  
Victory 2.80

Magilton faces a significant test in trying to get his side past Perth, however, as the Victory have lost six of their past seven matches on the other side of the country despite enjoying vastly superior A-League results throughout that time.

They may be catching Perth at the wrong time as well, as Ian Ferguson's side has produced dramatically improved performances in recent weeks.

Just a few weeks ago Ferguson was under immense pressure from the fans and media, but his switch to a 4-4-1-1 formation appears to have been a masterstroke as it has set the Glory up better to maintain possession while still having the attacking numbers to create

chances.

Perth does face several injury concerns heading into the Victory match though, with defenders Josh Mitchell and Bas van den Brink among those in doubt.

Mitchell missed the Glory's midweek 1-1 draw with Sydney FC while van den Brink was substituted early after suffering a cork.

If those two miss, Steve Pantelidis - a natural midfielder - will be the only player with significant central defensive experience available, which would likely force them to again use Jacob Burns as a makeshift centre-half.

Ferguson admitted the defensive injuries were a major headache but was

confident he had the squad to overcome them.

"It's been an absolute nightmare at the back and you obviously want players to play in their natural positions. But they've done a job," he told The West Australian.

"We are struggling (with injuries) but it shows the depth we've got now and the character of the squad."

Attackers Billy Mehmet and Travis Dodd are also in doubt with injury concerns.

**Kiss of Death  
Glory 2-2 Victory**



## Victory Line Up

2. Matthew Foschini  
4. Petar Franjic  
6. Leigh Broxham  
7. Matthew Kemp  
8. Grant Brebner  
9. Jean Carlos Solorzano  
10. Archie Thompson  
11. Marco Rojas  
12. Rodrigo Vargas  
13. Diogo Ferreira  
16.Carlos Hernandez  
17, Jimmy Jeggo  
18. Danny Allsopp  
19. Isaka Cernak  
20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)  
21. Ante Covic (GK)  
22. Harry Kewell  
23. Adrian Leijer (c)  
\*three to be omitted\*

In: 7. Matthew Kemp, 17. Jimmy Jeggo (both promoted)

Out: 3. Fabio (suspended), 14. Billy Celeski (groin), 15. Tom Pondeljak (back)

Unavailable: 14. Billy Celeski (groin), 15. Tom Pondeljak (back)

Compiled By Alvaro Rodriguez

## WHAT'S HOT

Arsene Wenger's North Londoners. The irony of being beaten by a side whose likes are normally cannon-fodder for the big clubs, by playing a style of football not unlike that of Arsenal's no less, surely wouldn't be lost on the under-fire Frenchman, or compatriot/club prodigal-son Thierry Henry for that matter. Regardless of how the rest of the season pans out for the two sides respectively, the Swans and Gunners can at least take satisfaction in having dished up one of THE games of the season!

## WHAT'S NOT

At long last the Melbourne Victory board bit the bullet and gave Mehmet Durakovic the sack, and just as out-of-the-blue was his replacement in former Northern Ireland international Jim Magilton. The former Oxford United, Southampton and Ipswich Town man comes to the post with two prior stabs at management (with Ipswich and QPR), which has seemingly unimpressed Craig Foster, publicly lambasting his appointment and referred back to the 'British mafia' in Australian football - to which fellow ex-Socceroo Robbie Slater, himself born in the Old Dart, took grave offence. Whilst I admit I am a huge admirer of Fozzie's push to modernise Australia's approach to player development et al by looking to Latin America and continental Europe for inspiration, I believe he erred grossly in lumping Magilton in with the 'Brit hoof/fight-ball' coaches, the Graham Taylors et al, that Fozz scorns at. It would not doubt interest him to learn that Magilton briefly spent time at Sporting Lisbon studying their youth set-up (as he mentioned in his first interview with the Herald-Sun), and of course Jim's stated aim to have the team playing the attractive, possessive/passing football that Mehm couldn't deliver. Of course how long it will take for Jim to implement this on a side populated by technically-deficient route-one merchants(if he can at all) is what we'll have to wait and see, but the point is that to judge a coach's style merely by his nationality is ignorant and wrong.

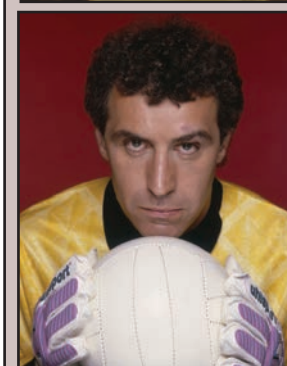


The Swans are playing some delightful football this season.



Once again, Fozzie made a complete muppet of himself.

## SEPARATED AT BIRTH



Yellow Wiggle Greg Page is apparently making a comeback this week, whilst Peter Shilton used to wiggle it between the sticks for England.

Seen any uncanny doppelgangers lately? Let us know on our facebook page and you could win a prize.

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# ALEX TERRA



PHOTOS/GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS



# Perth completes glorious comeback



Melbourne Heart players thought they'd scored a late equaliser when Ktistian Konstantinidis headed past Heil Younf, but the ref awarded a free kick.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Adrian Zahra (Heart) puts the heat on Jack Clisby (Glory).

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

By Daniel Quinn

**Kamara goal enough to take all three points**  
A Teeboy Kamara strike has defeated Melbourne Victory 1-0 at Burton Park on Saturday afternoon. However Victory would think they should have taken something from the game.

Adelaide with 15-year old Teeboy Kamara created the first chance on 17 minutes but his left footed strike went wide of Tando Velaphi's goal.

On 53 minutes Victory could have opened the scoring when Espindola crossed for Luke O'Dea but the forward got a weak connection before the ball was cleared off the line.

Two minutes later the Reds should have scored but Jonathan Mavromatis decided to pass while one-on-one with Velaphi. The Adelaide forward however was offside.

One minute later Kamara opened the scoring for Adelaide when he was played in before finishing with his left foot past Velaphi.

On 80 minutes O'Dea could have snatched an equaliser but his strike went wide.

In the last minute of normal time Izzo saved the

day for the hosts when he pulled off a brilliant save to deny Lokvancic's wonderful long range strike.

Izzo then continued his fine form to deny Jeggo in stoppage time with a comfortable save.

**Perth comeback to steal the points late**  
Perth Glory have comeback from 3-1 down to win 4-3 at John Cain Memorial Park against Melbourne Heart on Monday morning which means Heart suffered their second defeat of the week after losing to Central Coast on Wednesday.

On 11 minutes Heart opened the scoring after captain Bosnjak beat two defenders before finishing nicely past Young.

Two minutes later Perth equalised thanks to an own-goal by Bradley Treloar.

On 26 minutes Heart took the lead after Jeremy Walker was fouled in the box by Glory skipper Sam Mitchinson. Bosnjak stepped up to bury past Young.

One minute later Jeremy Walker crossed for Andrijašević whose header thundered off the crossbar.

On 29 minutes Jeremy Walker extended the lead for the hosts. After a deflection off Glory

head the ball fell for Walker who smashed it past Young to make it 3-1.

On 62 minutes Clisby cut the deficit down to one with a stunning free-kick which Roganovic had no chance of saving.

Heart continued to push forward looking for a fourth and goal to send Perth packing but Zahra's shot had no power behind it to test Young. Six minute before full-time Makeche equalised after a brilliant run through the centre of the park before finishing past an oncoming Roganovic. Glory continued to push and took the lead three minutes later through Amezcua. After a long boot up the pitch Makeche again showed his immense pace before passing to an unmarked Arnez to slot into an open net.

In the last minute of normal time Konstantinidis thought he equalised to make it 4-4 but the referee chalked it off after a foul on the 'keeper Young.

**Mariners hammer the Jets**

Central Coast Mariners have defeated Newcastle Jets 4-1 at Adamstown Oval on Friday night thanks to a hat-trick by Tomas Rogic.

Hoole then opened the scoring on 5 minutes with Newcastle first chance. He did well to beat

a couple defenders before shooting into the bottom corner.

Just before the half-hour mark Hayward broke down the left before crossing to Rojic who made no trouble for 10 yards to equalise.

Mariners took the lead just before half-time with Rojic scoring his second by slotting into the far post.

Second-half substitute Appiah-Kubi made it 3-1 with his first touch of the ball when he slotted home.

On 74 minutes Appiah-Kubi earned a penalty. Rojic stepped up to claim his hat-trick.

**Gold Coast United triumph in NYL thriller**  
Gold Coast United triumphed 5-3 over the AIS in a thrilling encounter at Owen Park on Saturday.

The AIS took the lead on 5 minutes through Anthony Proia with a tap-in.

On 22 minutes Chris Lucas equalised after Chris Harold cut back for the young forward to finish.

Not even 60 seconds later, Barker-Daish fired home to take the lead after Josh Brilliante's effort smashed into the post.

Four minutes after Gold Coast took the lead

through Benjamin Garuccio after Anthony Proia played a great ball.

But once again another goal came only one minute later thanks to Barker-Daish with his second.

AIS continued to look for a chance to score an equaliser and it did come on 65 minutes with Joshua Barresi to make it 3-3.

Mitch Cooper on 76 minutes finished brilliantly to give United the lead after some great work by Brilliante.

In stoppage time Cooper made it 5-3 with a great looping effort over Jordan Thurtell.

**Sydney hammer the Roar**

Sydney FC have hammered the Brisbane Roar 3-0 at Cleveland Showgrounds on Sunday thanks to goals by Mallia, Chianese and Powell.

On 29 minutes Mitch Mallia opened the scoring for Sydney after pouncing on a poor back pass.

In the first minute of the second-half Joel Chianese doubled Sydney's lead with a stunning half-volley past Andrew Redmayne.

On 57 minutes Brisbane went down to 10 men with the send off of Jason Geria.

# Roar secure second spot and home semi

By FFA

**Westfield W-League 2011 Champions Brisbane Roar secured second spot and a home semi-final thanks to a gritty 1-0 final round win against arch-rivals Sydney FC.**

The victory means the Roar will host the Sky Blues for the second successive week, while premiers Canberra United will entertain Melbourne Victory, who finished fourth for the second successive season.

Melbourne secured a 4-1 win on the road against Adelaide United in a result made academic for the Victory thanks to Newcastle Jets' shock loss at Perth Glory.

The Glory stunned the Jets with a deserved 4-2 win to hand the wooden spoon to an unlucky Adelaide.

A tight and hard-fought contest in Brisbane was settled by a single first-half goal with unfortunate Sky Blues midfielder Teresa Polias turning a cross into her net.

Chances were few and far between with both sets of players out on their feet by the end in a tough precursor to next Sunday's semi-final.

The winner will progress to the grand final where the victor of Saturday's Canberra United and Melbourne Victory contest will await.

The Victory finished five points clear of the Jets in fourth thanks to their 4-1 win against Adelaide United.

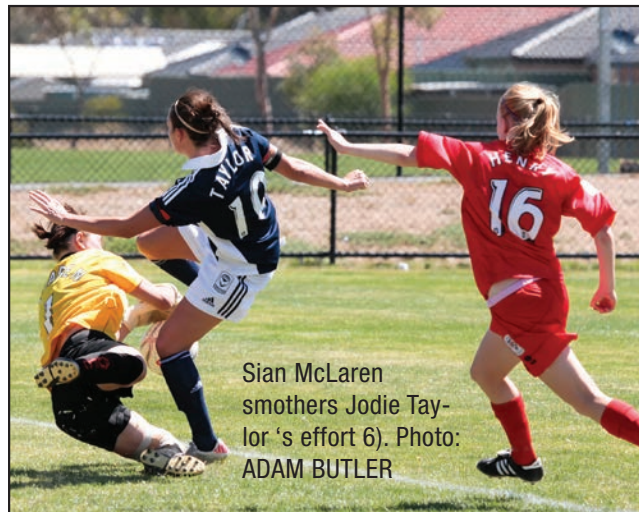
Adelaide took the lead through Marianna Rajcic in a hard-fought and high tempo first half, however the Victory battled back strongly to lead 3-1 by the interval thanks to goals from Katrina Gorry, Ashleigh Brown and Caitlin Friend.



Kendall Fletcher scores the 4th goal for Melbourne Victory. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Emma Checker (15) rises over the top of Rebekah Stott (2), Rita Mankowska (6). Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Sian McLaren smotheres Jodie Taylor's effort 6). Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 Canberra United	10 7 3 0 23 9 14 24
2 Brisbane Roar	10 6 3 1 20 11 9 21
3 Sydney FC	10 5 2 3 26 8 18 17
4 Melbourne Victory	10 5 2 3 21 9 12 17
5 Newcastle Jets	10 4 0 6 18 22 4 12
6 Perth Glory	10 2 0 8 11 36 25 6
7 Adelaide United	10 1 0 9 6 30 24 3

Next Round	
<b>Canberra Utd v Melbourne Victory</b>	
Saturday 21 January	
McKellar Park, Canberra	
Local kick-off: 3pm	
Tickets available at the game	

One Hour highlights package on ABC1 from 6pm, Saturday.

<b>Brisbane Roar v Sydney FC</b>	
Saturday 22 January	
Queensland Sport and Athletic Centre, Brisbane	
Local kick-off: 2pm (3pm AEDT)	
Tickets available at the game	

One Hour highlights package on ABC1 from 6pm, Sunday.

Results	
Brisbane Roar 1:0 Sydney FC	
Perth Glory FC 4:2 Newcastle Jets	
Adelaide United 1:4 Melbourne Victory	
Canberra United Vs Bye	



PICS OF ROUND 16



Roar mascot and Massino Mrdocca are all smiles after the thrilling last gasp 2-1 win over Sydney FC. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Adelaide United goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic accepts the Kosmina / Muscat Cup from the very men themselves. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page



The Yarra Side faithful show hail their Melbourne Heart heroes. Photo: TIM SIZE



Travelling Adelaide United fans brought much colour and fanfare to the match against Melbourne Victory at AAMI Park last Friday . Photo: ANITA MILAS



Brisbane Roar players Thomas Broich, Massimo Murdocca and Mitch Nichols celebrate the win over Sydney FC. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Perth Glory's Steve Pantelidis earns his drink after a gutsy 2-1 win over Melbourne Heart on a sun-kissed Sunday afternoon. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Labinot Haliti grabs the opener for the Newcastle Jets in the F3 derby draw against rivals, Central Coast mariners. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Couch Potato

\* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SBS ONE  
Sunday January 22nd  
10:30 AM Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia.

11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature -

12:00 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial

Monday January 22nd  
04:30 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial  
11:05 PM The World Game

SBS TWO  
Monday January 16th  
09:30 PM The World Game

Friday 20th January  
06:00 am Serie A Matchday 18: Juventus V Cagliari  
09:30 am Arsenal TV Swansea V Arsenal

Saturday 21st January  
02:30 am Serie A Matchday 18: A.C Milan V Inter Milan  
04:30 am FA Cup Classics Gillingham V Chelsea 4th Round 00/01

Sunday 22nd January  
07:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 18

Monday 23rd January  
04:30 am Magic Of The FA Cup Newcastle United's Greatest Goals

Tuesday 24th January  
03:00 am Serie A Matchday 18: Juventus V Cagliari  
05:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup Manchester United - Greatest Goals

Wednesday 25th January  
02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup Manchester City - Greatest Players  
03:00 am Arsenal TV Manchester United V Arsenal  
06:00 am Serie A Matchday 19: Inter Milan V Lazio

Thursday 26th January  
03:00 am Bundesliga Matchday 18: Schalke V Stuttgart  
05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 18



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE  
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

Week 24		
Sat Jan 21 Norwich v Chelsea	11.38 pm	
Sun Jan 22 Wolves v Aston Villa	1.53 am	
Sun Jan 22 Everton v Blackburn	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Jan 22 Fulham v Newcastle	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Jan 22 QPR v Wigan	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Jan 22 Stoke v West Brom	1.53 am	
Viewers Choice		
Sun Jan 22 Bolton v Liverpool	4.23 am	
Sun Jan 22 Sunderland v Swansea	Midday	
DELAY		
Mon Jan 23 Man City v Tottenham	12.23 am	
Mon Jan 23 Arsenal v Man Utd	3.53 am	

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE  
Tue Jan 24 Southampton v Leicester 6.30 am

A-LEAGUE LIVE		
Fri Jan 20 Newcastle v Wellington	8.00 pm	
Sat Jan 21 Central Coast v Adelaide	5.30 pm	
Sat Jan 21 Melbourne Heart v Brisbane	7.45 pm	
Sun Jan 22 Sydney v Gold Coast	5.00 pm	
Sun Jan 22 Perth v Melbourne	7.30 pm	

FOX SPORTS FC  
Tue Jan 24 8.30 pm



The Futbol Town Show  
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time  
Magazine Show  
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV  
Channel 31  
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show  
Every Saturday 10.30am



Alvaro Rodriguez's

NAME: Ecuador  
CAPITAL: Quito  
POPULATION: (2011 approx.) 15,007,343  
CONFEDERATION: CONMEBOL  
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Pan-American Games gold-medalists 2007  
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 42nd  
WORLD CUP APPEARANCES: 2002, 2006

WHO ARE YA?

The Republic of Ecuador is situated on the Pacific coast of northern South America, bordered by Colombia and Peru(it is also one of two South American countries - Chile being the other - that does not border Brazil). Like the rest of the continent save Brazil and the CONCACAF members to the north(Guyana, Surinam etc.), the land was colonised by the Spanish in the 1500s, and its people subjugated.

Those people were in fact the Incas, the great empire encompassing mostly modern-day Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. The heir to the Inca throne, Atahualpa, was captured and held prisoner by a Spanish force led by the conquistador Francisco Pizarro, shortly after ascending to the imperial throne. This chapter in the colonisation period was immortalised in a fable about palace rooms full of gold and silver trinkets that Atahualpa promised to Pizarro and his men in exchange for freedom. Atahualpa was executed by his captors shortly after, and the land was incorporated into the Spaniards' administrative 'Viceroyalty of Peru', later the Viceroyalty of New Granada.

So it remained for nearly 300 years, with the Spanish absorbing those aspects of the indigenous culture that could be useful in maintaining social control(in particular the 'encomienda'; a system of tribute for labour that was little more than disguised slavery; however actual slavery was also practiced, and black Africans were imported en masse by the colonists to this end); much the same happened elsewhere on the continent.

Like in the rest of the continent, the early 1800s marked the first forceful calls for independence - although it is worth noting that the pro-independence group set up in Quito in 1809 is widely regarded as THE first such group in Latin America calling for political sovereignty. It would not be till 11 years later(1820), that the first active uprisings began, culminating in the Battle of Pichincha two years later where the Venezuelan-born General Antonio José de Sucre, political ally and friend of Simón Bolívar 'The Great Liberator', defeated a near-2000-strong Spanish/sympathiser force.

Following the battle, what is now Ecuador was incorporated into Bolívar's 'Republic of Greater Colombia' alongside Colombia and Venezuela - its flag, the old battle-standard of freedom fighter Francisco de Miranda, is the yellow/blue/red triband from which the current flags of those three nations are derived. Greater Colombia crumbled in 1831 however, and thus the Republic of Ecuador(literally 'The Equator' in Spanish) was born.

The new republic soon faced a host of problems, particularly the political divide along class lines. Things later took a sharp turn in 1895 when a reformist liberal-minded government gained power, enacting several reforms such as reducing the sociopolitical influence of the clergy. Within 30 years however the country had returned to political seesawing between the Left and Right, precarious as it was during times of economic instability, and just under a decade later World War II broke out - but that in itself wasn't the cause of the armed conflict that awaited the country. Ecuador's long-standing border dispute with Peru erupted into violence in 1941, with the final peace between the two nations not actually signed until 1998.

Though Ecuador had largely been spared the military-dictatorship rule sadly synonymous with historical Latin American politics, in 1960 a 19-year procession of military governments began, although it is worth noting the first two regimes(Velasco Ibarra's from 1960-61 and Arosemena's from 1962-63) were leftist and pro-Castro in particular. In any case, it was not until Jaime Roldós Aguilera assumed the presidency in 1979 that Ecuador returned to civilian democratic government. Although tensions do remain in Ecuador to certain extent, they have thankfully not flared up into political

Planet Football Ecuador



Antonio Valencia (no.16) spurs on his Ecuador teammates after a crucial goal.



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

or armed conflict as in its fellow Mirandan republics Colombia and Venezuela.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Although football is the national sport, Ecuador has achieved very little throughout its football history - indeed, its first World Cup appearance was in 2002, at which point Venezuela remained(and still does) as the only South American nation yet to qualify for the World Cup finals. Ironically the country declined an invitation to compete in the first-ever World Cup in 1930, and it wasn't until Chile 1962 that the Ecuadorians debuted in World Cup qualifying.

They fared much better next time around, shocking the continent by forcing a sudden-death playoff against Chile, at which point the Ecuadorians failed and thus missed the boat for England '66. It wouldn't be until the France '98 qualifiers, the first played under the current 'Mini-League' format, that Ecuador would come close to breaking their duck. Though they started their campaign strongly, they faltered towards the tail-end and thus had to content themselves with a 6th-place finish.

Nevertheless the country had gained a newfound respect within the continent's circles, and the country began exporting its best players in ratios comparable to those of its neighboring rivals. Prior to this, the country's footballing pedigree had extended to hosting the Copa America 3 times(1947, 1959 and 1993) and its leading club side Barcelona SC of Guayaquil finishing runners-up in the 1990 Libertadores Cup to Paraguay's Olimpia.

In the WC year of 1998, Barcelona SC again reached the continental final only to lose to Brazilian powerhouse Vasco da Gama (who, by winning, qualified for the inaugural World Club Cup in 2000 - where they clashed against Ange Postecoglou's South Melbourne side! - after fellow Brazilians and Libertadores winners in '99, Palmeiras, withdrew).

The hopes of '96-'97 would be realised next time around, with the Ecuadorians finally

reaching the big stage for 2002(in second place behind Argentina, no less!) and being drawn in Group G with Mexico, Italy and reigning bronze-medalists Croatia, with the debutants' sole WC victory 1-0, achieved against the latter having already been eliminated after 2 losses.

After a disappointing 2004 Copa America, the Ecuadorians returned to the WC fray for 2006, this time lumped in Group A with hosts Germany, Poland and Costa Rica(with Carlos Hernandez in the squad!). Credible wins against the Poles and Ticos ensured Ecuador of progress to the second-round despite a 3-0 loss to the Germans, after which they were drawn against England - David Beckham's 60th-minute goal enough to shade the plucky South Americans, who nevertheless had won fans the world over for their adventurous play. They were rudely shocked at the following year's Copa America however, eliminated at the group-stage without a single point(they did defeat Jamaica in the football final of the Pan-American Games in Brazil the same year, the national team's only honour to date), but 2008 would see another red-letter day for Ecuadorian football - Liga Deportiva Universitaria(LDU) de Quito becoming the country's first winner of the Libertadores, defeating Brazil's Fluminense and thus qualifying for the World Club Cup where they reached the Final against Manchester United, succumbing only to Wayne Rooney's 73rd-minute winner.

Despite such success at club and national-team level, Ecuadorian football was again brought back to Earth by failing to qualify for South Africa 2010 despite now boasting a lineup near-wholly comprised of foreign-based players, and another poor showing at last year's Copa America where they again finished last in their group with a solitary draw to their name.

BIG CLUBS

As mentioned, Barcelona SC and LDU Quito are the country's 'Big Two', with nearly 30 titles

between them. As well as the '08 Libertadores, LDU boasts the 2009 Copa(equivalent to Europa League) and Recopa(South American Super Cup) Sudamericanas and the latter again in 2010, making it the only Ecuadorian club to win any continental silverware so far. The top-flight(Primera Categoría Serie A) also boasts the country's next-strongest teams, Club Sport Emelec and Club Deportivo El Nacional.

REP YOUR COLORS

Nicknamed La Tri(in feminine-tense as opposed to the masculine 'El', as in the manner of Mexico's national-team nickname El Tri), the Ecuadorian NT plays in the same template as its Colombian neighbour(yellow tops, blue shorts and red socks), although have at times worn predominantly-blue or yellow kits in order to set them apart. Barcelona SC wears a gold top with black shorts and socks, whilst LDU Quito wears an all-white strip(like Real Madrid) and a mostly-black away strip as worn vs. Man U in the 2008 CWC Final. Emelec wears a mostly-blue with white jersey, and CD El Nacional wears an all-red number.

MATCHWINNERS

Antonio Valencia and Felipe Caicedo would probably be the best-known Ecuadorian players in the English-speaking world due to their respective stints in the EPL. Striker Caicedo, a youth product of Barcelona SC, first made his name at Swiss side FC Basel, home to Scott Chipperfield. In 2008 Caicedo joined Manchester City shortly before the club was bought by current owner Sheikh Mansour, but despite some early promising performances he was later loaned out to Sporting Lisbon in the wake of City's signing the likes of Adeniyi, Tevez and Roque Santa Cruz. After hopping the border to Spain where he turned out for Malaga and Levante, Caicedo joined Lokomotiv Moscow in July last year; a move that seems to have done his national-team-recall aspirations more harm than good.

Antonio Valencia has fared much better in England by comparison as well as for the national team, despite only a 3-year age gap between him and Caicedo. A product of CD El Nacional, Valencia set off on his European sojourn in 2005 when he joined Villareal, only to play two senior games for the club before being loaned out to Recreativo Huelva, where he came to the notice of Steve Bruce who promptly secured his services for Wigan, and so began Valencia's Premier League career. Despite being bought outright by the Latics for the 2008-09 season, Valencia was soon pried away by Manchester United, where he has since established a niche for himself as Cristiano Ronaldo's replacement on the wing, whilst proving capable in a wingback role.

National skipper Walter Ayovi plies his trade for Mexico's Monterrey, with another six recent NT call-ups also playing in the Mexican top-flight. The country's other European-based internationals include Rubin Kazan's Christian Noboa, Real Betis' Jefferson Montero and KAA Gent's Edson Montaño, the latter soon to return home to Barcelona SC. Former Newcastle Jets player Edmundo Zura is back at home playing for El Nacional after his failed stints at the Jets and the MLS' San Jose Earthquakes, and finally LDU Quito club legend Giovanni Espinoza currently turns out for Chile's Union Española after fruitless stints abroad with Vitesse Arnhem, Cruzeiro and Birmingham City.

SO WHAT NOW?

After failing to recapture their form at last year's Copa America, the onus is on La Tri to return to the World Cup in 2014 - and at present occupy 4th spot on the Mini-League ladder with 6 points, ahead of Chile on goal difference and below Venezuela(7 points). The problem is to maintain this good form for the next 21 months, as qualification doesn't wrap until October 2013! All the more so considering Venezuela's all-time-high expectations of a first-ever WC appearance and it underlines the long road La Tri have to reach nearby Brazil, but if their overseas stars and next-generation of homegrown talent fire at the crucial time, it'd be unwise to completely rule them out.

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# Powerhouse of Australian football

Sydney United

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay



Formed as Croatia Sydney in 1957, Sydney United, as it was later known, was one of the strongest and most consistent teams in New South Wales and National Soccer League competition, though it was unlucky enough never to win the championship of the NSL. In 1986 it came top of the Northern Division but lost to St George and Marconi in the finals. In 1988 it finished second in the league and was only beaten in the grand final on penalties by Marconi. From 1993–94 onwards Sydney United regularly made the finals but it was not till 1996–97 that they topped the league only to go down to Brisbane Strikers in the grand final. Season 1998–99 was a similar story only South Melbourne was United's nemesis in the final match. That defeat seemed to knock the stuffing out of United and it struggled in the last seasons of the NSL and bowed out of the top division when the competition ended. Since then it has remained, as it was before the NSL started, as a power in the NSW Premier/State league. Throughout this 55-year period it has been the standard bearer for the Croatian sporting community in Sydney with its own superb facilities at Edensor Park since 1980. Arguably Sydney United has produced or nurtured as much talent in Australian football as any club in the land. The history of the club published in 2008 listed nearly 70 international players who had represented the club and their respective

countries, the vast majority of them playing proudly for Australia. Mark Bosnich, Zeljko Kalac, Ante Milicic, Tony Popovic, Wally Savor, Ned Zelic, David Zdrilic and Dennis Yaager are among that list. When the big split in Australian football began in New South Wales in 1957 sparked by the non-promotion of Hakoah to the First Division, Croatia played its first competitive games in Division Two of the Metropolitan League in 1958. Croatia won the league and all 17 matches played that year. The following season it joined the break-away New South Wales Federation of Soccer Clubs and was placed in Division Three. By 1960 the club had learned how to succeed at the higher level of Federation matches and won Division Three and with it promotion to Division Two. In 1962 strengthened by some English and Austrian players Croatia was champion once again. Leo Baumgartner, the Austrian international coached the team, and he also coached APIA-Leichardt in the first division that season. So six years after foundation Sydney Croatia was in the first division. Playing at the top level in NSW was a big step for the new club and despite picking up a number of new players, including keeper Ivo Dukic and Robert Pomahac from Croatia Melbourne, Alan Hetherington from Canterbury and Argentinian Eduardo Massey, Croatia only just avoided relegation. In 1964, much to the disgust of the club and its



Croatia Sydney, NSW State League champions in 1977. Source: More than the game.

fans, it was forced to change its name to Metro, but by 1966 that decision had been reversed. League performances did not improve markedly, though the club could be relied on to cause upsets by knocking off top teams on occasion. In 1967 South Sydney Croatia as the club was now called reached the play-offs for the first time finishing third in the league. Keeper Ron Corry did his best to keep Croatia in contention but Johnny Warren scored for St George to prevent the club reaching the grand final that year. Crowd trouble at a game against Yugal led to another enforced name change in 1970 but on the field the club continued in mid-table despite the best endeavours of a number of top class players including John Doyle, Nigel Shepherd, Mirko Susa and Ron Corry. By 1972 Croatia had been restored as the club name and the club benefited from the expulsion of sister club, Mel-

bourne Croatia from the Victorian Soccer Federation. Australian international Billy Vojtek had a season in Sydney in 1973. In 1974 the club picked up its first major trophy, the Rothmans Cup beating a tired St George side in the final. St George had won the league grand final the previous week. When the National Soccer League was finally begun in 1977, Croatia Sydney really did not have the on-field record to justify a place, though its crowd support was greater than some of the teams that were invited to take part. Perhaps the absence from the national competition worked in Croatia's longer-

term interests in that it was able to win the State League premiership three times in a row and set the basis for future success. Its junior development in the Canterbury area led to the emergence of a string of young talent, many of whom went on to play at the highest level here and overseas. In 1978 the club embarked on an ambitious tour of North America with a team which included Atti Abonyi, Bobby Russell, Maurice Sullivan and a young Wally Savor. In 1981 Croatia won the league but just fell short in the finals, going down to an Ernie Campbell goal for St George

in the grand final. In the next two seasons Croatia won the grand finals after finishing first in the league in 1982 and second in 1983. So when the NSL was reorganised into two divisions there was no way that the Croatian-backed clubs from Sydney and Melbourne could be denied entry. This story draws heavily on Ivan Nimac, Sime Dusevic, Leonard Lozina and Tony Nimac, More than the game: 50 years of Sydney United, Sydney United Football Club, Edensor Park, NSW, 2008.



Left: A young Ned Zelic. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library. Right: Mark Bosnich for the Young Socceros. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.



The first Croatia Sydney team in 1958. Source: More than the game.



Captain-coach Vedran Rozic with the 1987 NSL Cup after Sydney Croatia beat South Melbourne 1-0 in each of the 2 legs. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON





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On behalf of everyone at Futsal Oz we would like to extend the very best of wishes to all of our teams, participants, fans, sponsors and supporters. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2012.



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# Moss following doctor's orders

GOALKEEPER Glen Moss will get news later this week on when he can expect to step up his rehabilitation program after undergoing painful groin surgery just before Christmas.

The Gold Coast United custodian has been consigned to the sidelines since tearing his adductor in the 3-0 win over Adelaide United at Hindmarsh Stadium, and is due to meet with the surgeon who skilfully carried out the operation in the coming days.

Moss is naturally hoping to hear that everything is on course and going to plan after strictly adhering to the doctor's post-op orders.

"The operation went really well and the surgeon spoke to me once I'd come around and woken up. He said I'd made a pretty good job of it with a fair bit coming off the bone, which is pretty serious obviously," Moss said.

Right after the surgery it was pretty much four weeks of doing nothing so the initial scar tissue could heal. I'm seeing the surgeon this week to see where I'm at with it and hopefully it will be good news."

Two and a half centimetres of the New Zealand international's groin muscle was torn from the bone and has since been reattached using the latest surgical technology. While most of us would cower behind a cushion at the very thought of suffering such an injury, Moss says at the time the pain level was lower than expected,



especially considering the dramatic damage he had just done to his body. However, all that changed post-surgery!

"At the time of the injury itself there was just a popping sound and no real sharp pain or anything like that – it was strange and not like I imagine breaking a bone would feel," he said.

"It was sore of course, but more of an uncomfortable feeling than anything else. Your brain tells your leg to move, but because the muscle has come away it can't. It's hard to describe; I couldn't move it forward, lift it or anything and just hobbled off under my own weight really.

"After the surgery was a different matter though. When I woke up the

pain was excruciating and that was certainly the worst of it. It felt like someone had stuck a hundred knives in my groin.

"I didn't ask too much about the surgical process before I went in because I was already a bit nervous and don't even like the sight of needles to be honest.

"Afterwards I found out a little bit more about how the procedure is done, but still didn't ask too much! I'm just thankful that the technology is there to be able to perform such radical surgery."

Filling the time voids created by not being able to train and play is perhaps one of the greatest challenges to a player with a long-term injury. Daily routines are sent into meltdown and

the normal dynamic of building up mentally and physically for match day is strangely absent.

Footballers are creatures of habit and Moss has tried to keep as much of his usual regime in place by coming to every training session to be part of the banter and pass on tips to his deputy Jerrad Tyson.

But along with the frustration of suffering a rare injury, Moss has also found a new appreciation for the game he loves now that it has temporarily been snatched from him.

"Up until now I've been so lucky with injuries throughout my career," said Moss, who turns 29 this Thursday.

"I missed a handful of games last season with a rolled ankle, but that's about it. I've had dislocated fingers and things like that but just battled through them.

"This has been a real eye opener for me in terms of having to watch from the sidelines and it does make you think about the game a lot.

"I really miss playing football and appreciate it now more than ever. It's made me think that maybe I've taken the game for granted a little bit. You don't know what you've got until it isn't there anymore.

I've been coming to training every day to stay involved and keep to a routine I'm used to. It keeps my spirits up and I still feel a part of it, plus of course I'm there to pass on any advice to Jerrad or help out however I can."

## Rose Agrees To Three Season Contract Extension

Central Coast Mariners are delighted to confirm that exciting left back Joshua Rose has agreed terms to stay with the Hyundai A-League's pacesetters until 2015.

Rose has become a mainstay of the Mariners' defence since becoming Graham Arnold's first signing in 2010, and has also established himself as a firm fan favourite among the Bluetongue Stadium faithful.

The speedy, attack-minded yet tactically astute defender's name has been mentioned in Qantas Socceroos circles since arriving on the Central Coast from Romania, and while he is yet to make his debut for Holger Osieck's side, it appears Rose is in the frame for any Hyundai A-League squad selected by the German manager. An elated Rose today said he was happy to secure his future at a club that he feels "settled" at, and a community he feels at home in.

"Obviously with my young boys it's good to have that stability," Rose said. "We are nice and settled here, so we are very happy."

"My wife and I have bought a house here (on the Coast). The football side of things, with a coach like 'Arnie' (Graham Arnold), it's all going along pretty smooth.

"The Club suits me well, and if you are happy you play your best football."

With his Club future confirmed, Rose said he believes any national team representation will take care of itself should he be able to maintain the type of form that made him the 2010/11 Mariners Medallist.

"It's always in the back of the mind and obviously playing at Central Coast suits my style and helps me stand out a bit with the license to get forward,"

he said. "I'm enjoying my football and I keep doing well then those things will look after themselves."

Mariners Head Coach Graham Arnold said he was thrilled the Mariners have been able to secure Rose's services for another three seasons, and labelled the Rockhampton-born flyer the "best left fullback in the league".

"For me it's a fantastic signing for us, especially for three years," Arnold said. "He's such a good guy and fits perfectly into the group and the culture of the Mariners. I'm very happy Josh can get on with football now."

Arnold lauded Rose's capacity to contribute in both defence and attack.

"He brings quality - defensively he's very strong," he said. "He gets some goals and assists as well."

"I think he's the best left fullback in the league and I'm sure if he ever got given the opportunity at National Team level he wouldn't let anyone down."

Central Coast Mariners Chairman, Mr Peter Turnbull, echoed Arnold's thoughts and indicated the Club would be in the position to announce more player signings shortly.

"Josh has been a sensation since he arrived with those long spectacular runs down the left always giving opposition defenders the jitters," Turnbull said.

"Our table-topping players are prime targets of other Hyundai A-League Clubs, but we are confident of retaining the outstanding talent we have."

"The Club will be announcing further signings in the near future," he said.

Rose's contract extension ensures he will remain at the Yellow and Navy until the end of the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League campaign.

# Foster kicks off fair trade football

Today, Craig Foster, former Socceroo and SBS's chief football analyst, joined with Jinta Sport to launch 'the new rules of the game', an ethical, fairtrade approach to soccer.

"Football is about supporting each other as a team, playing hard and playing fair. Everything we use should drive that message home, especially the ball itself," said Craig.

Jinta soccer balls are hand-stitched in Pakistan, following fairtrade practices that improve wages, working conditions, environmental practices and prevent child labour. Fairtrade brands also pay a premium which goes towards funding community projects. One such project is a fair price shop in flood-ravaged Pakistan, which provides essential and affordable staple foods for Jinta workers and their families.

Jinta Sport was founded last year by Nick Savaidis, becoming Australia's first and only fairtrade sports brand. Jinta means 'winner', in the language of the Warlpiri tribe in the Northern Territory. Nick chose the name after working with remote indigenous communities as a teacher developing social enterprises.

"Jinta and I are passionate about social programs through football. I'm delighted to work with them as



brand ambassador on this extraordinary initiative. If you want a great ball that's made ethically, Jinta is the ball," said Craig.

Proceeds from each ball sold go to support the Mount Theo Program, a youth outreach program that works with indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

"Being the world game, it's impor-

tant that kids everywhere have an opportunity to play, achieve and learn life-lessons through football. By supporting communities and children across the world, we are sharing the spirit of the beautiful game and that's why so many clubs around Australia are switching to Jinta," said Craig.

Jinta also carries out education

programs at schools to teach children about sustainability and fairtrade.

Jinta Sports soccer balls and assorted gear are available at the Oxfam shop, Friends of the Earth, Green Collective and selected retailers or available online at: [www.jintasport.com.au](http://www.jintasport.com.au)



Josh Rose signs on for three more years at Mariners



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# A new challenge for Colombia

## Latin Wrap



## Francis Fields

José Pekerman touched down a few days ago at El Dorado international airport in the Colombia capital to a typically warm welcome. The Argentine coach famous for his disciplined and triumphant work in youth football now has the task of leading the renown coffee makers to a spot in Brazil's 2014 World Cup finals.

Colombia is a fascinating country in itself. Long gone are the days that fill up the western world's perception of drug trafficking, the country prospers and it's people are charming, warm and full of joy.

That is exactly reflected in its football. Considering the vast diversity in its cultural and geographical landscape, Colombian football has been full in a talent pool, spoiled for choice.

The one problem its national team consistently lacks is a leader, with character to make important decisions on the pitch and discipline. Without the latter, little achievements can be obtained.

It is therefore hoped that the Argentine tactician can begin a new era to a more insightful approach to training methodologies, added with discipline to the game professionally as Colombian players are full of energy and passion. In fact, the use the word has been exploited and wrongly used in this country.

To concur that if there are passionate countries in Latin America above all, it is Colombia and Brazil. Argentina and Uruguay must go down as fanatical and dedicated, very dedicated.

Only time will tell. There are exactly five months for the World Cup South American qualifying zone to commence again. That is June later this year so there is time on Pekerman's hands.

The man needs to acclimatise first, settle in. Working alongside his coaching staff, one would imagine a database of players will be handed to him and the rest is up to him.

For somebody like Pekerman who has decades of football development experience, his time as a manager is a role he has opted to step up. With three years out of the coaching scene and with an enviable record of results on his CV - including three FIFA Under-20 World Youth Championship titles from 1995 in Qatar, 1997 in Malaysia and 2001 on home soil.

Another very interesting note in South American international football is the number and the necessity of bringing in a foreign coach to direct the national team setup.

Both Argentina and Brazil are far too big egos to suck up and swallow up their own mistakes in terms of results to begin resorting to a foreign boss. With it comes an array of strong vocal pride of nationalism and the urge to promote the local game at the top level. It is by far a sign of a strong football culture at stake.

So hats off to Colombia and its officials for the appointment.

The country had a knack of producing an exhilaration of flamboyant characters in midfield. The kind who would prefer to walk instead of running, to let the ball to the running and swiftly move the sphere in such a finesse and technical manner that it would be like having glue to their feet.

That is the very well-known Carlos Valderrama but there have been others of the production line like Giovanni Hernández -currently at domestic champions Atlético Junior of Barranquilla display an ability of vision and elegance on the ball with their heads barely dropping.

Now names like Atlético Nacional's Dorlan Pabón is an exception that surely Pekerman will motivate and push him to reach his full potential. Of course, that is also up to the player himself. Another name is young 20 year-old sensation James Rodríguez who plays for Porto and Giovanni Moreno, a 25 year-old who plays week in, week out in Argentina with Racing of Avellaneda.

Such class is out there in the talent pool and Pekerman is the kind who is able to identify, discover, recognise and hopefully reward.

Up front, providing the right feed of balls will ensure Radamel Falcao lots of goals. If his work rate becomes an issue to exhaus-

tion from his trade at Atlético Madrid in the Spanish La Liga, there is Teófilo Gutiérrez - a hot-headed and speedy forward scoring plenty with Racing.

There is also Hugo Rodallega who English Premier League fans are aware of, at Wigan Athletic but a handful of sharp shooters in Mexico. At Jaguares is Jackson Martínez, prolific and tough both in the air and fending off markers. He is waiting for more match-time opportunities with the yellow-coloured jersey of Colombia. Then there is Dayro Moreno is also doing the goals at Tijuana.

One however that surely Pekerman will look to push for selection and continuity given his huge potential is Carlos Darwin Quintero, currently at Torreón giant Santos Laguna in Mexico. The 24 year-old was a standout in the Mexican Apertura two seasons who has already tried his fortune in Europe, precisely in the Russian Premier League.

The thing is Colombians have trouble adapting abroad but those who do, do so very well if not, look at Radamel Falcao. It is he who will undoubtedly take the role of a leader and lead his teammates to shape into a Pekerman side; 'quick off their blocks,' playing vertically in attack, creating spaces both diagonally and out wide and always looking to rotate in tight spaces in a repetitive, methodical manner.

In hindsight, the array of successful Colombian school of coaches curiously has had more success in Ecuador, where first Francisco "Pacho" Maturana, then Hernán Darío Gómez followed by Luis Fernando Suárez, and now Reinaldo Rueda have coached the national team. These coaches were a mixture of portraying charisma, confidence, talent above everything with the ball but the sheer fact of being a foreign coach will transmit respect.

It probably makes sense for Ecuador however to have a foreign coach. They went to two consecutive World Cups which goes to show it is easier for an outsider to stand aloof from tensions between major domestic football clubs and major cities.

Deportivo Cali and América de Cali with the latter dropping to the second division in dramatic circumstances last month taking the bragging rights in the southern city, Bogotá amassed by Santa Fe and traditional powerhouse Millonarios, up north in Manizales is Once Caldas, a giant from the provinces whom have lifted the Copa Libertadores, Deportes Tolima who consistently produce young talent along with Medellín's clubs Atlético Nacional and Independiente de Medellín. The other one is current champion Atlético Junior of coastal city Barranquilla.

National teams are ambassadors to society, to a sporting landscape but instead, when results don't go in favour as it did with Colombia attracting global attention in failing to reach the second-round of the USA '94 World Cup as one of the favourites, tragic consequences came about that do not need mentioning.

The national team - a splendid, attractive one, capable of beating anyone outside the pressures of a World Cup - suffered a kind of guilt by association.

The team and its playing style were seen as discredited. Never since has the Colombian national side had a sense of footballing identity, a clear idea of who it is and what it is trying to do. That was what Francisco Maturana had embedded and engraved in the Colombian player's psyche - especially during the Italia '90 World Cup.

A football pundit was seeing a Colombian player on the pitch with smiles on their faces, with their natural joy but with flair and a common, collective objective as a team. There was a sense of direction and ambition.

In an ideal picture, had the Colombia Federation officials noticed of Pekerman before-hand, eighteen months would have been avoided with the scandal of Hernán Darío Gómez and his replacement, Leonel Álvarez. Not to disregard the two who are also notable, credible coaches but to lead a side like Colombia takes a lot of character and leadership.

But even with limited preparation time it looks a perfect fit. Pekerman played in Colombia during his playing days and alongside his magnificent record in youth development and his 2006 Argentina side was one of the most attractive of Argentina sides seen in recent World Cups, he has the ability to overturn a Colombia lacking in confidence and identity.

Built around the playmaking talents of Juan Román Riquelme, it was almost a retro side, the type of old fashioned Argentine football that was so influential in Colombia. A classic number 10 always lurking around



José Nestor Pekerman smiles with journalists upon arrival in Bogotá on Wednesday to be presented next week as new Colombia coach.



Retired Boca Juniors and Argentina goalscorer Martín Palermo will host a farewell tribute match however Juan Román Riquelme was not invited.

looking to be free in between the markers, between the lines.

Pekerman, then, should be able to help Colombian football get in touch with its lost identity. He is the first foreigner to take charge of the national team in 30 years.

Some might see it as a backward step. But when you have lost your way, sometimes you have to go back to go forwards. To think that in July 2010, Football Federation Australia were in serious talks with Pekerman.

The past is the past but without a past you cannot step into the future. Watch out closely for Colombia.

**Martín Palermo has invited his “true friends”**

**The bleach-haired and talisman who could not stop scoring at Boca and now retired is having his farewell tribute at the La Bombonera stadium as expected.**

Stars will be attendance in abundance

including a Diego Maradona coming out of surgery from a removal of kidney stones has promised Palermo over the phone to be attending. The one news item that shocked journalists was the omission of Juan Román Riquelme.

"I didn't invite Riquelme because we didn't have a good relationship. I only invited my true friends", speaking to newspaper Diario Olé.

There will be former teammates of the Argentina national team, of his first club Estudiantes de La Plata and of course, from Boca.

Names like former Colombian goalkeeper Óscar Córdoba and compatriot Jorge Bermúdez, fellow defender Hugo Ibarra, retired goalkeeper Roberto "Pato" Abbondanzieri, Guillermo Barros Schelotto, former midfielder Diego Cagna and current team captain Rolando Schiavi.

Palermo hinted at the poor relationship between him and Riquelme due to "distancing

from years ago. We had several occasions where we had to stay in hotel rooms as a team and we could not stand each other. If I can't get along with somebody in 24 hours, I won't get along with somebody having a coffee either", he explained.

With coaches like Alfio "Coco" Basile current at Racing also invited and the viceroxy of Argentinian football, Carlos Bianchi who masterminded Palermo's most successful period as a Boca player it looks set to be a memorable night.

The date will be the 4th of February at the iconic La Bombonera stadium on an ideal Saturday evening for Boca Juniors, Argentine and world football fans to enjoy.

What about Carlos Tévez? Martín Palermo said that Tévez is open to appearing on the night permitting he signs for another club which is his current priority. While currently not enjoying his time at Manchester City after falling out with Italian manager Roberto Mancini, Palermo admitted disappointingly

that Tévez is likely to miss the night.

The opposing team has yet to be arranged.

**Mexican Clausura wrap**

**There were plenty of exciting moments throughout the second round of Mexico's Clausura last weekend.**

While there were a few well-earned results, much of the excitement was steeped in controversy.

The most drama was to be found in the colossal Azteca stadium, where América scraped a draw against Toluca thanks to a controversial late penalty, though Querétaro was certainly vocal after falling 1-0 at current champions UANL Tigres in large part thanks to a seemingly blown call from referee Fernando Guerrero.

With Toluca holding a 1-0 lead thanks to Ivan Alonso in front of a largely hostile Azteca crowd and the minutes ticking down, Daniel Montenegro played a through ball from the edge of the area that struck Toluca defender Diego Novaretti, who had his arms at his sides, where the shoulder meets the chest, only for referee Erim Ramírez to signal for a penalty kick to the fury of nearly the entire Toluca team and reigniting plenty of conspiracy theories in the media about the referees favoring América.

Matias Vuoso calmly converted the spot kick to split the points between both sides.

Despite his side likely having lost two points because of the penalty, Toluca president Fernando Corona took a diplomatic, yet subtly critical tone following the game.

"For the referees I don't know (if they favor América), they will carry that in their conscience, there they will know it," he said. "The only thing I can say is that it is sad, bitter, to lose three points the way we did today and come away with only one, because we earned three legitimately, the boys improved in the half but we didn't achieve more."

On the other hand, América head coach Miguel Herrera took a rather unusual stance when questioned about the late penalty and the conspiracy theories suggesting that the officials favored America, by far Mexico's most popular team.

"No, good that [the referees] keep helping us, the team goes out there to play and if they help us, good," he declared.

Regarding the penalty itself, Herrera was a little less brash. "I have not seen it, I will look at it, from where I see the movement of the defense, some some say that it hit in the shoulder, others in the arm, but whether it wasn't a penalty or it was, we converted it," the former Atlante coach argued.

The Azteca was not the only ground in Mexico to see a controversial decision affect the outcome of a game, though. Nearly 600 miles to the north in the Universitario stadium in Nuevo León, defending champion Tigres UANL edged out last season's surprise team 1-0, sending a tough-looking Gallos Blancos of Querétaro to a second straight defeat to open the season.

However, just prior to Juninho's 39th minute goal, a wayward header from Chilean forward Héctor Mancilla looked to have rolled over the end line, only for Carlos Salcido to dive in and play it to Elias Hernandez, whose cross was poorly cleared, allowing Juninho to pounce and score the game's lone goal.

Television replays showed the ball was about a half a meter over the line, and it appeared as though even Salcido had thought the ball was out, as he walked slowly back onto the field until he realized the play was still alive.

Unlike the case of América-Toluca though, the reaction of Querétaro head coach, Paraguayan José Cardozo might yield a good degree of scrutiny from the federation, calling the incident one of "total irresponsibility from the linesmen."

He went on to add, "We are playing well in many ways and when they beat you like that, it hurts a lot. I'm not saying the other team didn't play well; in the second half we also played well, in the final minutes we had two good chances at goal. We go home annoyed, hurt by the refereeing and by the defeat as well."

Elsewhere, Chivas' Jorge Henríquez was shown a red card for some seemingly innocuous contact with a Jaguares player while trying to leap over a challenge and reacted, but it had little effect on the game's outcome, with Chivas already down 3-1 and just a handful of minutes remaining. They are without a win after two rounds and are looking worried as one of Mexico's giants simply cannot afford to be at the foot of the table.

The weekend's other scores were: Estudiantes Tecos 0-2 San Luis, Pachuca 3-1 Puebla, Tijuana 1-0 Monterrey, Atlas 0-2 Cruz Azul, Atlante 1-2 Santos Laguna and Pumas UNAM 3-0 over Morelia.



# Redknapp transforms Spurs from relegation battlers to potential champions

## LONDON CALLING



With Sam Collins in the UK

It's January 11th 2009. Harry Redknapp and his Tottenham Hotspur team are travelling up the M6 en route to the JJB Stadium, where they will take on high-flying Wigan Athletic.

The Londoners sit in the relegation zone, just two points off the bottom of the Premier League, whilst Steve Bruce's Wigan side are flourishing in 7th place. The visitors are outplayed for large parts and in injury-time the Latics are rewarded when Maynor Figueroa heads home from a corner. The Honduran's late goal leaves Redknapp angered and in disbelief on the sidelines. It's a result which means Spurs have now lost eleven of their first twenty-one league games, and they haven't even visited Old Trafford or Anfield in the season yet. Summer signings including Luka Modric, Roman Pavlyuchenko and Giovanni dos Santos have all struggled to adapt to the physical rigours of English football. Redknapp's work since taking charge three months earlier, when he replaced Spaniard Juande Ramos, is commendable, but defeats keep coming. Are they too good to get relegated? Will Redknapp even see out the season?

Fast forward three years and the contrast in Tottenham's situation couldn't be greater. The club currently reside in 3rd place in England's top-flight, just three points behind leaders Manchester City, losing just one of their last nineteen league games. Redknapp - who incidentally did see out the aforementioned 2008/09 campaign leading the north Londoners to an impressive 8th place - now has his team playing the best football in the country. And the once "light-weight" Modric - as the English media labelled the Croatian during his first few months in London - is now the fulcrum of the side. The 26-year old's technique was never in question, but in the past two seasons he has fully adapted to the physical rigours of the Premier League. Modric is just one of a number of talented players at White Hart Lane these days. His midfield team-mates - Scott Parker, Rafael Van der Vaart and Gareth Bale - have all enjoyed fantastic seasons thus far too, whilst two of the summer signings Emmanuel Adebayor and Brad Friedel - who arrived on a loan and a free respectively - have excelled. Tottenham's impressive campaign comes at a time when Redknapp has had to deal with various problems in defence too. Club captain Ledley King has appeared in just eleven of the club's twenty-one league fixtures this season, whilst fellow defenders Michael Dawson and William Gallas have had spells out through injury, but the club still have the fourth best defensive record in the division (Twenty-one goals conceded).

Saturday's draw at home against Wolves was a disappointment how-



Arsenal's Thierry Henry celebrates at the final whistle after his comeback goal had knocked Leeds United out of the FA Cup.

ever, and it comes at a time when Redknapp knows he can't afford to drop points in "home-bankers". In the next ten weeks, Spurs travel away to Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea, as well as hosting Man-

chester United and Newcastle at White Hart Lane. It's a fixture schedule which will intrigue Premier League viewers, and ask serious questions about the Lilywhite's chances of a first title since 1961. But it would be unfair to under-

mine Redknapp's reign in north London, especially when you consider his accomplishments with Spurs has been achieved with on a relative shoestring budget. The club have spent just short of £93m since Redknapp took charge

in October 2008, whilst they have recouped close to £50m in transfers too. That's a net-spend of just over £40m in the space of three-and-a-half years - a fee less than the cost of Fernando Torres in comparison. League leaders Manchester City have spent £413m during the same time. Club chairman Daniel Levy deserves extreme credit for Spurs' development in recent times. It was Levy who also stood firm in the summer, when Chelsea offered £40m for the services of want-away midfielder Modric. The 49-year old businessman rightly receives plaudits.

"Difficult, but not impossible," was how Redknapp described his side's chances of winning the title last week, and in fairness, he probably summarises the situation well. Though Tottenham lack the experience of winning the self-proclaimed "best league in the world", they have one of the most proficient squads in England - one which is packed full of internationals and glittered with talent. Former Spurs' winger and England international Chris Waddle believes it would be a "shock" if his old side lifted their first title in 51 years, but Redknapp insists his current side is "stronger" than Terry Venables' 1990 Tottenham side which finished 3rd - Spurs' best league campaign in over two decades. It could get even stronger should the 64-year old decide to use some of the transfer funds available this month. Blackburn centre-back Christopher Samba skipped training last weekend and told French media that he needed to move to a more "ambitious" club, intensifying rumours of a move to north London, whilst Marseille striker Loic Remy would like to move across the channel to join Redknapp's squad, according to the player's agent. It all makes for exciting times for Spurs.

That afternoon in Wigan feels like longer than three years ago. A lot longer.

# THE ONE-EYED WONDER OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

By Mike Salter

A little over a decade ago, I vividly remember watching a modest Ipswich Town team punch memorably above their weight in the English Premier League. And this bunch of "Tractor Boys" hardly achieved their success by playing the sort of route-one rubbish routinely derided by detractors of British football; it was, on the whole, a neat and intelligent style that Scottish manager George Burley inculcated in his side, which was built around the central midfield pairing of a young Matt Holland and...Jim Magilton.

This lengthy introduction is only intended to demonstrate some of the flaws in the consistently simplistic world-view of SBS's

Craig Foster, whose lukewarm reaction to Magilton's appointment at Melbourne Victory was the spur for the unseemly twitter row with his former Socceroo team-mate Robbie Slater.

Slater's reaction, let it be said without reservation, was unseemly and childish. The ghosts of 1997, and of that "incident" in Tahiti soon afterwards, still have not been laid to rest. But my intention here is to examine why there is such hostility towards Craig Foster outside the SBS enclave. It is, in fact, remarkable how regularly Foster manages to get under the skin of his fellow football pundits, with his infuriating habit of judging players, but more particularly coaches, on their nationality rather than their merits.

It's worthwhile examining how it

got to this point, and why Foster's copious form in this regard riles his colleagues so much. So, first of all, some history.

Foster's own experience in England was salutary but intensely frustrating. He found himself at two clubs mired in financial turmoil and organisational chaos, and it is more than likely that the anti-English feeling that pervades so much of his writing originated from these experiences. Crystal Palace and Portsmouth circa 1998 were hardly shining advertisements for English football.

Then came his elevation to the position of SBS chief analyst, and, just as importantly, his regular column in Sydney's Sun-Herald. This soapbox soon became the vehicle for some bizarre, one-eyed and (despite Foster's repeated claims

to the contrary) personal attacks on certain individuals, and some often premature praise for others.

Terry Butcher - another former Ipswich man, incidentally - was lambasted by Foster almost before he had stepped off the plane. The Englishman's spell at Sydney FC was indeed a largely unhappy one (although not quite as much as is often supposed), and some of the criticism he received during this period was justified. Yet Foster's persistent invective, often peppered with factual errors, was grossly inappropriate.

Butcher's replacement, Branko Culina, was showered with approbation by Foster, often with very little cause. Fast forward a few years, with Culina now at Newcastle and criticising Sydney's Czech coach Vitezslav Lavicka,

and now Foster decides to subject Culina to a thorough character assassination for daring to question the methods of a continental European coach.

Then there is his curiously schizophrenic attitude to the new Dutch brigade. Rob Baan, Australia's erstwhile technical director, was an inspired appointment in Foster's eyes when he arrived (never mind that no-one seemed to know exactly what he was meant to be doing). By the time he left, Foster, for reasons best known to himself, decided to crucify him in print.

Jan Versleijen? A very similar story. At one point, his charges are to be paraded through the streets. Not long afterwards, Versleijen himself is complaining of Foster's insistent criticism.

And Pim Verbeek? Space precludes a full examination of Foster's mood swings in relation to the dour Dutchman.

After all this time, it is truly extraordinary that Foster, with all his acumen and his own experience in the game, has not learned a very simple lesson: that nationality does not define quality. In his half-time analyses on SBS, he usually emerges as a shrewd and articulate commentator. In person, too, he is genial, enthusiastic and likeable. But as long as he continues to view coaching appointments and the like in such a caricatured way, he will always be compromised as a judge of the game... and he will continue to draw the ire of the Slaters of this world.

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EPL Wrap



Steven Talevski  
Title hunt heats up

The English Premier League title hunt is set to heat up with top of the table Manchester City hosting third placed Tottenham in a game that may sway the chances of both clubs.

A repeat of Manchester City's victory over Tottenham earlier this season would create a five point buffer between the two sides.

Tottenham will look to bounce back from their shock one all draw against lowly placed Wolverhampton with a shock of their own at the Etihad Stadium.

Tottenham Midfielder Luka Modric told Spurs TV Online that the team needs to pick themselves up from the draw and head into the clash against Manchester City with a positive mindset.

"We just need to pick ourselves up for the big game on Sunday and we have to be positive regardless of Saturday's result!" Modric said.

"The last two seasons we have played massive games there and this will be another one. I hope we will do well and maybe win, why not? We are going there with a positive mindset and we will try to win the game.

"We try to do that against every opponent. I think we are that good that we can go there and win them."

However Manchester City defender Joleon Lescott dismissed Tottenham as major title threat claiming that Manchester City need to focus on the team behind them who are cross town rivals Manchester United.

"Beating Spurs would open up a big gap between us and them. No disrespect to Spurs but we see Man United as our main rivals because they're second in the league," Lescott said.

"We need to focus on the next team behind us and at this moment in time that's United.

**FA Cup wrap: Birmingham, Brighton progress**

**Wolverhampton Wanderers exited the FA Cup with a 1-0 defeat at home to Birmingham on Wednesday, while Brighton squeezed past Wrexham.**

The third-round replay at Molineux was little improvement on a dour 0-0 draw at St Andrews on January 7, with chances at a premium as both English Premier League side Wolves and their second-tier visitors lacked a cutting edge.

Wade Elliott made the decisive breakthrough with 16 minutes remaining in the match, as Championship club Birmingham extended Wolves' miserable run of nine matches in all competitions without a win.

Midfielder Elliott poked the ball home in the midst of a goalmouth scramble after Jordan Mutch's corner caused havoc in the home side's defence.

Chris Hughton's Birmingham will now travel to League One high-flyers Sheffield United in the fourth round on January 29.

Also on Wednesday, Championship club Brighton survived a scare with a 5-4 penalty shootout victory over Conference team Wrexham.

The two teams played out a 1-1 draw in their first meeting at the Amex Stadium on January 7.

Wrexham took the lead through Andrew Morrell's superb effort from the edge of the area 22 minutes into the replay at the Racecourse Ground.



Dzeko and Co will face Tottenham this weekend in a mouthwatering EPL clash.

"As much as the points are vital to create a gap between us and Spurs, it's more important to pull away from Man United."

Second placed Manchester United will look to apply pressure to Manchester City, and possibly overtake them if they were to slip up against Tottenham when they Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium.

With Manchester United missing central defender Nemanja Vidic for the season due to injury, Manchester United suffered a minor scare during their three nil victory over Bolton as Rio Ferdinand suffered a concussion.

Despite reports claiming Ferdinand is to miss the major clash, the central defender confirmed he will be available for the Arsenal match on twitter.

"Just dispelling the rumours that I'm a doubt for sunday! Trained with the team as normal since the game saturday! Coaches ran us hard 2day !" Ferdinand tweeted.

The clash is also set to line up two returning legends of both clubs, Paul Scholes and Thierry Henry, against each other in the Premier League for the first time since January 2007.

Rio Ferdinand told the Press Association that he is delighted to see both legends return and believes teammate Paul Scholes can make a positive impact to the clubs title chances.

"It is great to see two of the best players come back," Ferdinand said.

"If I was going to name a top five list of players to have played in the Premier League, Scholes and Henry would be in there.

"It's fantastic for Arsenal, of course, just as it is for us to have Scholes back. Hopefully he's going to help us get over the line and win another couple of trophies."

Arsenal will go into the clash needing a win as Newcastle United lay one spot behind them on goal difference.

Newcastle were able to go level on points with Arsenal after they defeated relegation zone strugglers Queens Park Rangers one nil courtesy of a goal from Leon Best as Swansea City surprised Arsenal with a 3-2 victory.

Newcastle also announced the signing of Senegalese striker Papiss Cisse from Bundesliga club SC Freiburg for an undisclosed figure believed to be around ten million pounds and will wear the iconic number nine jersey previously worn by Andy Carroll and club icon Alan Shearer.

Chelsea, who are four points above both Arsenal and Newcastle United face this seasons surprise packets Norwich City who defeated West Bromwich Albion 2-1 at The Hawthorns.

Chelsea could be with new centre back Gary Cahill who signed for a fee

in the region of seven million pounds from Bolton and was in the stands as a Frank Lampard goal helped Chelsea defeat Sunderland one nil at Stamford Bridge.

Liverpool who are hot on the tail of a European place, face Bolton at the Reebok Stadium after they were held to their eighth draw of the season in the Premier League against Stoke City.

Down the bottom of the table, Blackburn moved out of last place and out of the relegation zone after a passionate 3-1 victory over Fulham at Ewood Park despite going down to ten men after Ayegbeni Yakubu was sent off mid-way through the first half with the scores locked at nil all.

Blackburn will look to stay out of the relegation zone when they visit Everton at Goodison Park after they held Aston Villa to a one all draw at Villa Park.

Bottom of the table Wigan who are coming off a one nil loss to Manchester City will look to get off the bottom of the table when they face fellow relegation zone strugglers Queens Park Rangers.

In other Premier League clashes this week, Stoke City host West Bromwich Albion, Swansea visit Sunderland and Wolverhampton face Aston Villa at the Molineux Stadium.

Barca edge El Clasico, Athletic take advantage

Barcelona came from a goal down to beat Real Madrid 2-1 away from home in the Copa del Rey quarter-final first leg on Wednesday.

Holders Real took the lead against their bitter rivals 11 minutes into the match at the Santiago Bernabeu.

France striker Karim Benzema found a pocket of space inside the centre circle and slipped a perfectly weighted pass through to Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Portugal international nicked the ball past Gerard Pique with a neat step-over, before lashing a left-footed strike through the legs of Barca goalkeeper Jose Pinto.

Despite going into the break a goal down, Barcelona had enjoyed the best of the first half, with Andres Iniesta missing a decent chance inside the box from a left-footed strike and Lionel Messi seeing a near-post shot excellently saved by Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

The second half started at lightning pace and it took Pep Guardiola's visiting side just three minutes to equalise, courtesy of a goal from captain Carles Puyol.

Xavi Hernandez's corner kick dropped deep into the Real box, and Puyol came flying in to power home a diving header and level the scores at 1-1.

Barcelona continued to dominate po session as the game progressed, and

their patient approach paid off in the 76th minute when fullback Eric Abidal made it 2-1 with his second-ever goal for the club.

Argentina forward Messi clipped a sensational pass over the top of the Real Madrid defence, and Abidal coolly took the ball down on his chest before stabbing past Casillas.

With the victory, Barca became the first team to visit Real seven times in succession without tasting defeat, and they will take a narrow lead into the second leg at Camp Nou on January 25.

Elsewhere, Athletic Bilbao took the lead in their quarter-final against Mallorca with a 2-0 win in the first leg at home.

Fernando Llorente opened the scoring for the hosts 10 minutes before half-time at San Mames.

The Spain international nodded home with a clinical header following good work and a dinked cross from strike-partner Oscar de Marcos.

Iker Muniain doubled the lead a minute before the hour mark, slotting home a simple finish after the winger was left unmarked at the back post.

Athletic will take a healthy 2-0 lead away with them in the return match at Mallorca's Iberostar Stadium on January 25.



FOOTBALL NEWS

Report: Ferguson offered record pay

**Manchester United have offered coach Sir Alex Ferguson up to seven-and-a-half million pounds to stay at Old Trafford, according to reports.**

United are in talks with Ferguson to reward the most successful manager of the modern era with a pay hike that will make him the highest paid boss in Premier League history, Goal.com can reveal.

Ferguson has been offered a 6.5 million-pound basic contract supplemented by up to one million pounds worth of bonuses for a trophy clean sweep.

His deal will remain on the same one-year rolling terms that he first committed himself to in 2004 but the new offer represents a 60 per cent pay rise from his current four million per year contract rising to five million pounds. The structure of the top-up bonuses would remain unaffected by the new agreement.

It has been reported that United want Ferguson to formally accept the offer by midway through 2012.

Ferguson's pay hike will leapfrog him above Arsene Wenger to become the best paid manager in the Premier League.

The Scot was told by United chief executive David Gill last October that the Glazer family wanted to recognise his phenomenal achievements, which have

included a Champions League crown and four Premier League titles since the Americans took full control of the club.

At the time the Glazers were in the dark about the United manager's long-term plans but since making the offer to Sir Alex's camp, he has come out publicly and said that he hopes to have three more years in charge.

"All the talk at the top of the club over the last few months has been of a three-year plan," a United source told Goal.com.

"The Glazers were not sure of Ferguson's plans so asked David Gill to tell him that his achievements over all these years would be recognised with a deal that would make him the best paid manager in British football."

"There have been a few rounds of talks and the club want it sorted before his annual holiday to the south of France at the end of the season."

"It makes good business sense for the club and the Glazers. Ferguson has always been loyal to them and they feel it is time he was rewarded for the job he has done."

It is understood that neither party feels the need to adjust the length of his one-year rolling deal, which means that Ferguson is only entitled to 12 months' severance pay, giving United little long-term security.

**Aberdeen keen on Leckie**  
**Aberdeen manager Craig Brown is interested in signing Borussia Moenchengladbach's Australian forward Mathew Leckie.**

According to the Evening Express, Brown is keen to bolster his attacking options with the 20-year-old Australian joining Falkirk's Farid El Alagui as his chief targets.

Leckie joined Moenchengladbach from A-League club Adelaide United prior to the 2011/12 season and he has since made seven appearances off the bench for the Bundesliga outfit in all competitions.

The young striker, who can also play on the right wing, scored twice in the pre-season when Moenchengladbach defeated Aberdeen 5-2 in a friendly.

Aberdeen are ninth in the Scottish Premier League having scored just 25 goals in 23 matches.

Schwarzer extends Cottage stay

Fulham goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer has signed a contract extension which will keep him at Craven Cottage until at least 2013.

The 39-year-old has expressed his eagerness to represent Australia at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, with the stopper's playing career now likely to extend into his 40s.

Despite Schwarzer's current injury woes, with the ex-Middlesbrough missing from action since December, Martin Jol and the Fulham board were keen to wrap up the Australian's services for a further year.

Schwarzer said: "I love playing and want to continue for as long as possible as long as the performances are there."

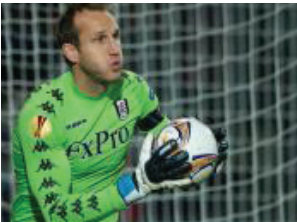
"I like to set myself targets and the 2014 World Cup is my goal without a doubt."

"I'm enjoying my football as much as ever and I try to maximise every opportunity I get. The saying I use is 'I'll be a long time retired', so I want to do the best job I can. There's plenty of time to feel tired when you're retired – now is the time to enjoy it."

"I realised a long time ago what a great life I have and you have to be realistic and realise how privileged we are to play football for a living, at this level in the Premier League. In my opinion it's still the best league in the world."

"I look at Brad Freidel and he's older than me so I'll keep going as long as he's going! He said to me he's going to play for at least another two seasons so I've got at least that."

Schwarzer has made 162 appearances in all competitions since his move from Middlesbrough on a free transfer in 2008.



Spain remain number one

**Spain continue to top the FIFA world rankings, as little international football over the past month saw few changes in the latest standings.**

Vicente del Bosque's men have Netherlands, Germany, Uruguay and England chasing them in positions second to fifth, with no moves in the top five.

Brazil sit in sixth place while Portugal remain in seventh, while Croatia, Italy and Argentina make up the remainder of the top ten.

Chile's 3-2 win over Paraguay back in December has lifted them from 13th to 12th, leapfrogging Russia.

Ivory Coast have slipped two places from 16th to 18th, with Sweden and Switzerland moving up the ladder, and Bosnia-Herzegovina are at an all-time high of equal 19th with Japan.

Australia are still in equal 21st with Mexico, the United States are in 33rd whilst Scotland and Wales are in 48th and 49th, respectively.

With the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations due to kick off on Saturday, the nations competing in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon can expect to see their rankings change next month.







Luca Cetta

## Derby win puts Inter in Scudetto hunt

Inter's winning streak continued against city rivals Milan as Juve slipped up at home, but still went into first position. Napoli and Udinese also stumbled, while Lazio returned to the winners list.

The Derby della Maddonina pitted league leaders Milan, unbeaten since October, up against an Inter side brimming with confidence following five straight victories, a run that included just one goal conceded.

While the Rossoneri saw more of the ball throughout the match (finishing with 67% possession) they struggled to break down a stubborn Inter defence. The Nerazzurri invited Milan forward, but shorn of midfield creativity with the absence of Alberto Aquilani and a half-fit Clarence Seedorf on the bench, they struggled to create clear-cut opportunities. Urby Emanuelson looked out of his depth behind the strikers Alexandre Pato and Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who once again failed to click. Mark van Bommel was closest to scoring in the opening period when he unleashed a rocket from 25 metres that hit the crossbar.

Javier Zanetti motored forward in the second half and his cross evaded a poorly attempted interception by Ignazio Abate to find Diego Milito, with the Argentine netting the only goal of the match. Milan were frustrated by the Inter backline and succumbed to a 0-1 defeat, a result which sent them off of top spot.



Inter Milan's Diego Milito scored the winner in the derby against AC Milan, costing the Rossoneri top spot in the process.

The Nerazzurri are just six points from the lead.

Match-winner Milito said afterwards: "We knew it would be difficult and remained concentrated throughout, so we're happy to have won the derby."

Juventus had the chance beforehand to move three points clear and looked on their way early against Cagliari when Mirko Vucinic finished off a sublime team effort. However, Cagliari clawed their way back into the match and after having strong penalty appeals turned down, Andrea Cossu made it 1-1 just after the break. Juve had chances to win it late on, notably substitute Milos Krasic, but they failed to beat Michel Agazzi.

The draw does ensure the Old Lady is alone at the top and gives Antonio Conte a Juventus coaching record for longest unbeaten streak to start a season, which now stands at 18 matches.

Udinese took the lead early against Genoa, but the Rossoblu, searching for a first win under Pasquale Marino, scored three times in the second half. Marco Rossi was then controversially sent off for Genoa and although Antonio Di Natale scored the resulting penalty, they held on to win 3-2.

Napoli also failed to claim all three points and had to come from behind to draw at home versus Bologna. Robert Acquafresca gave the visitors a first half lead after poor Napoli defending. Edinson Cavani equalised via the penalty spot to ensure a share of the spoils.

Lazio had no such problems at home against Atalanta, winning 2-0. Hernanes scored from a penalty after Stefan Radu was brought down. Atalanta's task was made increasingly difficult in the second half with the contentious sending off of Stefano Lucchini. Miroslav Klose made sure of the win in injury time, netting a fine solo effort.

Catania and Roma's Saturday night contest was rained out during the second half with the score locked at 1-1. Nicola Legrottaie headed the hosts in front but just four minutes later Daniele De Rossi nodded home. As the weather took a turn for the worst in the second half the pitch became unplayable and with 65 minutes gone the referee halted proceedings. The match will continue in February.

There was more trouble for Fiorentina, as fans attempted to storm the dressing

room and block stadium exits after the defeat at home to Lecce, while Cesena overcame fellow relegation candidate Novara 3-1. Chievo defeated Palermo 1-0 and Roberto Donadoni started his Parma reign off with a win over Siena.

The top two are on the road this weekend, as Juventus travels to Bergamo to face Atalanta and Milan go to Novara. Atalanta lost their first home match of the season two weeks ago against Milan and will represent a tough test for Juve, who will recover Giorgio Chiellini from suspension.

The Rossoneri will be looking to bounce back from the derby defeat against a struggling Novara outfit, but will need to resolve their issue in attack. Kevin-Prince Boateng and Alessandro Nesta will be missing through suspension, which will ensure another re-shuffle in midfield.

Meanwhile, Inter faces a challenge at home to Lazio, one of the best sides on their travels this season. Their only loss came a fortnight ago at Siena and they are one of the highest scorers on the road. They will need to overcome a miserly Inter, who are growing in stature each week. Claudio Ranieri must decide whether to alter his winning team and start Wesley Sneijder, now back from injury.

Roma and Udinese will be expected to pick up maximum points at home to Cesena and Catania respectively, while Napoli are away at Siena and need to start winning with consistency to stay in Champions League contention.

Cagliari are aiming to build on their positive start to 2012 at home against an out-of-sorts Fiorentina, with the Stadio Sant'Elia set to be open amid fears planned maintenance work would force a closure. Palermo Coach Bortolo Muti is already in danger of losing his job and could be sacked with a defeat against Genoa. Lecce hosts Chievo and finally, Bologna entertains Parma.

## who would want to work with Club President Zdravko Mamic?

His first match in charge was a friendly draw with Bosnian side Brotnjo. Cacic's task will be to continue Dinamo's league dominance and see out the season with the League title once more and then on build a squad for European football and if possible not embarrass himself and the club on the continental stage.

### Greece

Olympiakos continues to lead the standings in Greece but it wont be for long as Panathinaikos is slowly climbing the ladder and with a point separating the two and a game in hand for the 'Greens' it looks likely that Pana will replace their rivals on top.

Olympiakos easily overcame Levadiakos 3:1 with a double to Mirallas while Panathinaikos won two matches with the identical 1:0 scoreline, firstly away to Giannina with Brazilian Cleyton getting the only goal and then at home to Doxa with Greek National Team player Katsouranis scoring with two minutes remaining.

The Schedule over the weekend sees Olympiakos travel to sixth placed Xanti while Panathinaikos welcomes Levadiakos to Athens.

### Turkey

Sad news in Turkish football as fan favourite and Fenerbahce legend Lefter Küçükandonyadis passed away aged 86.

Born on 22 December 1925 in Buyukada, one of the Princes' Islands near Istanbul, Lefter started his career at Taksim SK. After four years of military service, he

drid's website which concluded with "Real Madrid wishes to express its deepest condolences to his family. Miljanic left a great impression at the club, both professionally and personally."

In club news Partizan Belgrade President Djuric has made a controversial decision following the sacking of Manager Aleksandar Staojevic, the businessman has signed former Chelsea and West Ham Manager, Israeli Avram Grant until 2013 a contract which sees the former Israel Manager earn 900,000 euros a season with the goal to strengthen the squad and produce regular European football for Partizan.

### Croatia.

Dinamo Zagreb's new manager is 58 year old Ante Cacic, a Croatian First and Second League crusader who's appointment as the clubs new manager is the highlight of his career and too many a real surprise but then again

## Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

## Simeone Makes Home Debut in Style

New Argentine Atletico Madrid coach Diego Pablo Simeone has won his first home fixture in front of 52,000 by the convincing margin of 3-0 against Villarreal.

The win puts Atletico into 10th place, 6 points from a target Champions League place, whilst ironically the loss for Villarreal, one of Spain's Champions League qualifiers, into the relegation zone. Two goals from the 40 million euro Colombian striker Radamel Falcao, 5 minutes either side of the half-time break put the match beyond the reach of the visitors, before Brazilian Diego made it 3-0 in the final minutes of the match. The impressive attacking display comes on the back of a disciplined defensive 0-0 away to Malaga last week, a sign that Simeone has already taken the team under his control and will be able to guide the team in the right direction, and the give the Atletico fans something to cheer about.

In response to the affection of the Atletico fans, Simeone had this to say; "It's difficult to explain because I wasn't expecting it. They told me of the love and affection the people at Atletico Madrid had for me, but the truth is that the expectations are very high. That obviously gives me much more responsibility. Now I hope to return that affection with hard work. It was the same day they had told the supporters they could watch training. When we came out there was a mountain of people.



New Atletico madrid coach, Simeone, had a winning start against Villareal.

joined Fenerbahçe in 1947 and went on to score 423 goals in 615 appearances over two spells with the club.

Single seasons ensued at both ACF Fiorentina and OGC Nice, in 1951/52 and 1952/53 respectively, before a return to Fenerbahçe where he would remain for 11 years. He retired in 1964 following a brief stint with AEK Athens FC.

Nicknamed 'Ordinariu', Lefter was capped 46 times by Turkey and scored twice at the 1954 FIFA World Cup in Switzerland. In total, he registered 21 international goals, a Turkish record for many years until it was surpassed by Hakan Şükür and then Tuncay Şanlı. After hanging up his boots he coached Greek side Egaleo FC, South Africa's SuperSport United FC, Orduspor, Mersin İdman Yurdu and Boluspor. He later

I couldn't believe it. I felt obliged to wait until the end of training before I could sign autographs for everybody. It showed the great love and affection they have for me."

Ironically, Simeone is no stranger to success having won the La Liga and Copa Del Rey double for Atletico as a player, and has captured the Argentine league title with 2 different Argentine clubs. Nor is Simeone any stranger to Atletico's star striker Radamel Falcao. This is now Falcao's second spell under Simeone, who both were at Argentine club River Plate as player and coach: "A lot has happened to Radamel since then. He is a strong, aggressive player who makes great diagonal runs, a good finisher. He is a player who needs assistance. We know that and we know what he can do, so I hope we can exploit even more the good things he has already done in Europe." Simeone was quoted as saying in regards to Falcao.

On the 3-0 win against Villarreal, Simeone was not getting carried away; "“We have to take things slowly... We're getting to know each other.” "I want to thank them (the players) for their willingness to work. The team is improving, we have to do things calmly, and what really excites me is the players' commitment to the club. That makes me very happy. The team played a great game, especially because of the pressure and the great commitment combined with the atmosphere that was experienced at the Calderon. This was an important match for Atletico Madrid, the fans, the players and for me."

Meanwhile, at the top of La Liga, Real Madrid maintained their 5 point advantage over Barcelona, coming from behind to beat Mallorca 2-1 away, whilst Barcelona won 4-2 at home against Real Betis. The two leadings clubs face difficult fixtures this upcoming weekend, Barca travel to cashed up Malaga, whilst Real Madrid host the resolute Athletic Bilbao.

## Balkan Wrap

Alex Milic

## PAOK FINED

### Serbia

Serbian football is in mourning following the death of legendary Yugoslav Manager Miljan Miljanic at the age of 81.

Miljanic had a successful career as Manager firstly leading Red Star Belgrade to Four Yugoslav League Championships and Three Yugoslav Cup titles between 1966 and 1974 when he took the reigns of the Yugoslavia National Team and led the side to the World Cup in Germany in 1974 but his very gifted side failed to progress into the Quarter Finals despite being one of the favourites, however the team did manage to destroy Zaire 9:0. He also led the National Team at the 1982 World Cup but once more the team failed to reach the knockout stages and with a side worthy of playing in a Final.

Miljanic is also remembered for being the first foreign Coach to succeed at Real Madrid having won back to back league titles in 1975 and 1976 which included the Spanish Cup in his first year in Madrid. He was also the long serving President of the Yugoslav Football Association and

overlooked emerging coaches such as Miroslav Blazevic and Ivica Osim.

In a letter to Tomislav Karadzic, the President of the Serbia FA, the FIFA President wrote: "I was deeply saddened to receive the news of former association President Miljan Miljanic's passing and would like to express my heartfelt condolences to his family and Yugoslavian football as a whole.

Miljan Miljanic was one of those exceptional personalities in football who excelled as both a coach and an administrator, qualities which earned him the FIFA Order of Merit in 2002.

My thoughts and sympathy are with you at this difficult time and I wish you strength as you seek to come to terms with the loss of such an influential figure."

Football legends from across the globe attended Miljanic's funeral with the likes of Zvonimir Boban, Emilio Butragueno, Dejan Savicevic, Safet Susic just to name a few.

There was also a message on Real Ma-

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ENGLAND EPL



	Last5games Most recent first									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 Manchester City	21	16	3	2	57	16	+41	51	WWLDW	
2 Manchester United	21	15	3	3	52	20	+32	48	WLLWW	
3 Tottenham Hotspur	21	14	4	3	39	21	+18	46	DWWDW	
4 Chelsea	21	12	4	5	40	25	+15	40	WWLDD	
5 Arsenal	21	11	3	7	38	31	+7	36	LLWDW	
6 Newcastle United	21	10	6	5	30	25	+5	36	WWLWL	
7 Liverpool	21	9	8	4	24	18	+6	35	DLWDD	
8 Stoke City	21	8	6	7	22	31	-9	30	DWDDL	
9 Norwich City	21	7	7	7	32	36	-4	28	WWDLD	
10 Swansea City	21	6	8	7	23	25	-2	26	WWDLL	
11 Everton	21	7	4	10	21	25	-4	25	DLLWD	
12 Sunderland	21	6	6	9	27	24	+3	24	LWWDW	
13 Aston Villa	21	5	9	7	23	27	-4	24	DLWDL	
14 Fulham	21	5	8	8	23	29	-6	23	LWDDL	
15 West Bromwich ...	21	6	4	11	20	30	-10	22	LLLDW	
16 Wolverhampton ...	21	4	6	11	23	37	-14	18	DLDDD	
17 Blackburn Rovers	21	4	5	12	32	44	-12	17	WLWDL	
18 Queens Park Ra...	21	4	5	12	19	36	-17	17	LLLDL	
19 Bolton Wanderers	21	5	1	15	25	46	-21	16	LDLWL	
20 Wigan Athletic	21	3	6	12	18	42	-24	15	LDDL D	

GERMANY Bundesliga



	Last5games Most recent first									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 Bayern München	17	12	1	4	43	10	+33	37	WWWLL	
2 Borussia Dortmund	17	10	4	3	35	12	+23	34	WDDWW	
3 Schalke 04	17	11	1	5	38	22	+16	34	WWWLW	
4 Borussia M'gla...	17	10	3	4	25	11	+14	33	WLDWW	
5 Werder Bremen	17	9	2	6	30	31	-1	29	LWLWL	
6 Bayer Leverkusen	17	7	5	5	22	22	+0	26	LWDWV	
7 Hannover 96	17	5	8	4	20	24	-4	23	DDDDL	
8 Stuttgart	17	6	4	7	23	20	+3	22	LLDLW	
9 Hoffenheim	17	6	4	7	19	19	+0	22	LLDLW	
10 Köln	17	6	3	8	27	35	-8	21	LDWDL	
11 Hertha BSC	17	4	8	5	24	26	-2	20	DLDDD	
12 Wolfsburg	17	6	2	9	23	34	-11	20	WLDLW	
13 Hamburger SV	17	4	7	6	21	27	-6	19	DDWDW	
14 Mainz 05	17	4	6	7	22	29	-7	18	LDDDW	
15 Nürnberg	17	5	3	9	17	28	-11	18	WLLWL	
16 Kaiserslautern	17	3	7	7	13	21	-8	16	DDDDL	
17 Augsburg	17	3	6	8	15	28	-13	15	DWLWL	
18 Freiburg	17	3	4	10	21	39	-18	13	LLDDD	

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	Last5games Most recent first									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 Southampton	26	15	5	6	50	28	+22	50	WWLWD	
2 West Ham United	26	15	5	6	41	23	+18	50	WWLDW	
3 Cardiff City	26	12	10	4	41	27	+14	46	DWDDL	
4 Middlesbrough	26	12	9	5	30	25	+5	45	LLDWW	
5 Reading	26	12	6	8	34	26	+8	42	LWLWW	
6 Hull City	26	13	3	10	27	25	+2	42	WLLWL	
7 Birmingham City	25	11	7	7	39	26	+13	40	WWDWD	
8 Derby County	26	12	4	10	31	33	-2	40	WWWWL	
9 Blackpool	26	10	9	7	41	33	+8	39	DWLWD	
10 Burnley	26	12	3	11	39	33	+6	39	LWLWW	
11 Leeds United	26	11	6	9	40	37	+3	39	DWLWL	
12 Brighton & Hov...	26	11	5	10	28	28	+0	38	WWLLL	
13 Crystal Palace	26	10	7	9	25	25	+0	37	DLWLW	
14 Barnsley	26	10	6	10	37	39	-2	36	LWLWL	
15 Leicester City	26	9	8	9	34	30	+4	35	LWDDL	
16 Peterborough U...	26	9	6	11	44	42	+2	33	LDDWW	
17 Portsmouth	25	8	7	10	27	26	+1	31	LWDL D	
18 Watford	26	7	9	10	28	36	-8	30	LLWDD	
19 Ipswich Town	26	8	4	14	37	51	-14	28	DLLLD	
20 Bristol City	26	7	6	13	23	36	-13	27	LWWLD	
21 Millwall	26	6	8	12	24	34	-10	26	LLWLW	
22 Nottingham Forest	26	7	3	16	21	42	-21	24	WLLLD	
23 Doncaster Rovers	26	6	5	15	22	43	-21	23	DWLLW	
24 Coventry City	26	4	7	15	20	35	-15	19	LLWWL	

Greece Super League



	Last5games Most recent first									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	17	12	4	1	39	13	+26	40	WDWWW	
2 Panathinaikos	15	11	3	1	32	15	+17	36	WWDWW	
3 AEK Athens	17	10	3	4	25	17	+8	33	DWDLW	
4 PAOK	17	8	5	4	25	15	+10	29	WDWWW	
5 Atromitos	16	7	6	3	16	14	+2	27	DWLWL	
6 Xanthi	17	7	5	5	23	17	+6	26	DDWWD	
7 OFI	17	6	5	6	18	16	+2	23	WLDDL	
8 Ergotelis	17	6	3	8	18	22	-4	21	LWLWW	
9 Panionios	17	5	4	8	15	18	-3	19	WLWLL	
10 Aris	16	4	6	6	12	14	-2	18	DWLWD	
11 Panaitolikos	15	4	4	7	11	17	-6	16	LLDDW	
12 Asteras Tripolis	15	4	4	7	8	17	-9	16	DWLWL	
13 PAS Giannina	15	2	5	8	12	20	-8	11	LDLLL	
14 Kerkyra	15	2	5	8	8	20	-12	11	DLWDL	
15 Levadiakos	11	2	3	6	7	17	-10	9	LLWLW	
16 Doxa Dramas	11	0	3	8	1	18	-17	3	LDDL L	

SPAIN La Liga



	Last5games Most recent first									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 Real Madrid	18	15	1	2	63	17	+46	46	WWWLW	
2 Barcelona	18	12	5	1	55	11	+44	41	WDWWW	
3 Valencia	18	10	4	4	28	19	+9	34	LDWLW	
4 Levante	18	9	3	6	25	22	+3	30	LDLWL	
5 Athletic Club	18	6	8	4	26	19	+7	26	WDWDD	
6 Osasuna	18	6	8	4	21	30	-9	26	LDWDW	
7 Sevilla	18	6	7	5	19	19	+0	25	DLLLL	
8 Málaga	18	7	4	7	21	24	-3	25	LDLDL	
9 Espanyol	18	7	4	7	18	21	-3	25	DDWWL	
10 Atlético Madrid	18	6	5	7	26	27	-1	23	WDLWL	
11 Real Betis	18	7	1	10	21	26	-5	22	LWWWL	
12 Rayo Vallecano	18	6	4	8	21	27	-6	22	WLLLL	
13 Getafe	18	5	6	7	18	24	-6	21	DDWWL	
14 Real Sociedad	18	5	6	7	17	23	-6	21	WDDDW	
15 Racing Santander	18	4	8	6	14	21	-7	20	WDDDW	
16 Mallorca	18	4	7	7	16	24	-8	19	LDLWL	
17 Granada	18	5	4	9	12	23	-11	19	LLWL D	
18 Sporting Gijón	18	5	3	10	18	30	-12	18	WLLWL	
19 Villarreal	18	3	7	8	15	28	-13	16	LDLDL	
20 Real Zaragoza	18	2	5	11	14	33	-19	11	DLLLL	

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	Last5games Most recent first									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 AZ	17	12	2	3	36	15	+21	38	LWDLW	
2 PSV	17	11	4	2	48	19	+29	37	WWLWW	
3 Twente	17	9	6	2	43	18	+25	33	LWWD D	
4 Ajax	17	9	6	2	46	23	+23	33	WWWWD	
5 Feyenoord	17	9	4	4	34	22	+12	31	WDWWW	
6 Vitesse	17	8	5	4	23	16	+7	29	WDWDL	
7 Heerenveen	17	7	7	3	39	28	+11	28	LWWD D	
8 Groningen	17	7	5	5	29	28	+1	26	WDDLW	
9 Roda JC	17	8	0	9	29	38	-9	24	WLWWW	
10 NAC Breda	17	6	3	8	24	28	-4	21	WLLDD	
11 ADO Den Haag	17	6	3	8	22	31	-9	21	LWWD D	
12 Heracles	17	5	5	7	27	25	+2	20	LLWL D	
13 RKC Waalwijk	17	5	3	9	17	28	-11	18	WLLLD	
14 Utrecht	17	4	5	8	28	35	-7	17	LDL D	
15 NEC	17	5	2	10	17	27	-10	17	WLDDL	
16 De Graafschap	17	3	3	11	16	39	-23	12	LLWL D	
17 VVV	17	2	4	11	16	42	-26	10	LWL L	
18 Excelsior	17	1	5	11	9	41	-32	8	LDDL D	

LEAGUE ONE



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>
1 Charlton Athletic	25	17	6	2	50	19	+31	57	WWLWD
2 Sheffield United	26	16	5	5	52	27	+25	53	WWLWW
3 Huddersfield Town	26	13	11	2	52	25	+27	50	WWDDW
4 Sheffield Wedn...	25	15	4	6	45	32	+13	49	LWLWD
5 Milton Keynes Dons	24	13	7	4	48	25	+23	46	WDWLW
6 Stevenage	25	11	8	6	38	22	+16	41	WLWWW
7 Carlisle United	25	11	8	6	40	38	+2	41	WDDDD
8 Brentford	26	9	10	7	31	30	+1	37	DLDLD
9 AFC Bournemouth	26	10	7	9	33	33	+0	37	WDWWD
10 Preston North End	25	10	5	10	40	44	-4	35	WDLDW
11 Bury	25	10	4	11	32	39	-7	34	LWLWD
12 Colchester United	25	8	9	8	35	39	-4	33	DLWLW
13 Hartlepool United	26	9	6	11	30	34	-4	33	DWLLW
14 Notts County	25	9	5	11	41	39	+2	32	LDLLL
15 Leyton Orient	26	8	8	10	28	38	-10	32	DLWWL
16 Tranmere Rovers	26	8	7	11	27	31	-4	31	DLDLW
17 Oldham Athletic	25	8	7	10	32	37	-5	31	LDWLD
18 Exeter City	26	6	8	12	24	39	-15	26	DWDLL
19 Scunthorpe United	25	4	12	9	32	39	-7	24	DWDLD
20 Walsall	26	4	12	10	25	32	-7	24	DLDLD
21 Yeovil Town	26	5	9	12	28	42	-14	24	WDLWL
22 Rochdale	26	4	9	13	24	46	-22	21	DLDLD
23 Wycombe Wanderers	26	5	5	16	30	49	-19	20	LLLLW
24 Chesterfield	26	3	8	15	30	48	-18	17	DLDLD



# MEHMET AIMING FOR VICTORY

Perth Glory striker, Billy Mehmet, is doing everything possible to prove his fitness for this Sunday's blockbuster against Harry Kewell's Melbourne Victory.

Stranded to the sidelines, Mehmet has missed the last three games due to a small calf tear and hopes to return to the field when Victory visit nib Stadium in just three days.

"I've been doing everything I can so far, hopefully I'll be back for the game, but the boys have been doing really well, so we'll just wait and see what happens," Mehmet said.

New to the country, word was out early that Melbourne Victory was a big contender in the league, and Mehmet admits the clash on Sunday will be a huge test.

"I've heard that Melbourne Victory are a big club and with the boys that they've got this year we know that it's going to be a tough game."

"Hopefully we can get as many fans as we can to the game, to get behind us and hopefully we can get the three points."

The former St. Mirren striker grew up watching Harry Kewell is aware of the Soccerroo star's strengths.

"Growing up in England I used to watch him play for Leeds and he's got everything in a game so we'll have to stop that, but I'm sure with the boys at the back we'll combat that."

"It's going to be tough, but on the day anything can happen."

Mehmet, not the only star to be in an injured position, is joined with the likes of Travis Dodd, Josh Mitchell and Bas van den Brink who will have to go under assessment after a cork from yesterday's draw against Sydney FC.



With Sunday's match billed as the biggest this season a massive crowd is expected on the back of Perth Glory's excellent five game unbeaten run. After a gruelling 20 days of travel, Perth Glory have played four out of five games away, had seven flights and lost zero.

"Wherever you play in the world you want to play the big games, and that's what every footballer wants to do. "So on Sunday, it's going to be a big game and hopefully we'll go out and play like we have been and produce," Mehmet added.

# Eastern Lions Soccer Club Roar



Eastern Lions Soccer Club has just had one of its most successful seasons in its 48 year history.

The Reserves, Under 18's and Under 12's all won their respective leagues. Its hard enough winning one league title, let alone three, and to add icing to the cake, there are six young players that have been selected for the Eastern Region Representative Team competing in The Victorian Champions League.

It is no accident that these teams have been successful as Eastern Lions Soccer Club has been a pioneer in developing young players by following a proven curriculum, designed to ensure players of excellent

technical skill. The coaching curriculum is based on Coerver, the worlds # 1 coaching system and ensures that players spend a lot of time honing their ball skills and become technically gifted.

"The main reason for our success is all down to the development pathway that we have put in place for our young players, from 5 and 6 years old thru to 18 year old players" explained Nigel Reed, the clubs Junior Coaching Director.

Nigel instigated the program and has seen players develop from the Under 8's to the 1st team over a ten year period. "Its a fantastic feeling, knowing that the club has developed

some really fine soccer players using this system, and over the next few years we expect to see some of our juniors playing in the A-League" says Reed.

"We are looking to build on the successes of last year, and will be conducting an open day on December 18th 2011 at 10:30am at our home ground, Gardiners Reserve, Sixth Ave. Burwood giving players and parents an opportunity discover why the Lions are the best soccer club in the Eastern Suburbs".

Contact Norm Willcocks on 0416 036 346 for playing and coaching opportunities at Eastern Lions Soccer Club in 2012



A large number of Newcastle Jets Junior Members attended the Jets Junior Member Clinic at Ausgrid Stadium during the week. The majority of the Jets playing list were in attendance and took part in the activities.

Photos: BEN NEVILLE

